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WHITE HORSE
Fine Old Scotch Whisky

THE GUARDIAN

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Next week



Christmas Guardian

Why are there so many pictures of the infant Christ touching the Madonna's chin ? What happened to the swaddling clothes ? Leo Steinberg reflects on the Renaissance images of the Nativity and the human nature of the Word Made Flesh

HEART THROB

It was 1962. She was called Maria and she didn't speak a word of English. But she danced a magnificent, haughty flamenco. Frank Keating trekked the length of Africa in pursuit of his celestial, castanetting crumpetto

FURTHER REVELATIONS

About the Beast, the Barbarian, the whore of Babylon and the wilder shores of Patmos : a short story by Alex Hamilton

PLUS

A Posy for Christmas (the Edmund Heep competition) another Canterbury tale, the quiz of the year (who laid siege to Calais ?) the sports quotes of the year (I'm behind Terry Lawless 210 per cent) the King William Quiz (just how difficult can a question be ?) the cream of crosswords, the best of bridge, the choice of chess and the pick of the holiday television

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ethiopian topping up

THE Government is to give a further £750,000 to help drought victims in Ethiopia, Mr Timothy Raison the Overseas Development Minister, announced yesterday. It brings the total contributed to £10 million.

Drugs discussion

SEVEN medical advisers have agreed to discuss with Mr Norman Fowler, the Health Secretary, his plan to withdraw 400 brand-name drugs from GP prescription. Page 2.

IRA pledge

IRA leaders pledged a continuation of the armed struggle and wished their supporters a "happy Christmas and a revolutionary New Year" yesterday. Page 3.

No strike bonus

TRIPLE pay has been offered to cleaners who pass picket lines at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to work on Christmas and Boxing days. Page 2.

Soccer results

CANON LEAGUE.—First Division: QPR 0, Liverpool 2. Third Division: Bournemouth 1, Orient 0. Fourth Division: Crewe 1, Colchester 4, Rochdale 3, Chesterfield 1; Stockport 0, Darlington 0. Tranmere 3, Exeter 2.

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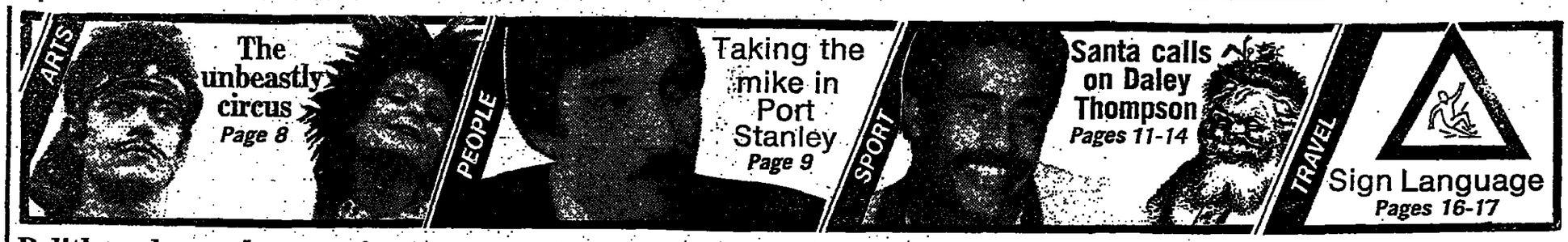
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The weather

CLOUDY but mild. Details, back page.

THE GUARDIAN IN EUROPE

Austria	24 sch	Greece	100 dr
Belgium	45 fr	Holland	3.25 gld
Denmark	8.50 kr	Italy	1,800 lire
Eire	35p	Malta	26c
France	7.00 fr	Spain	170 pts
Germany	3.50 dm	Switzerland	3 fr



Politburo loses advocate of restraint • Romanov tipped as successor • Query over pecking order

Ustinov dies, and Gorbachev curtails tour

From Martin Walker in Moscow, Michael Simmons in London and Jean Stead in Edinburgh

The death of Marshal Dmitri Ustinov, the only civilian apart from Leon Trotsky to have become Soviet Defence Minister, was announced in Moscow last night. He was 76 and, until he became ill last September, was considered one of the most powerful people within the policy-making Politburo.

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, with whom he aligned himself in some key policy areas, cut short his visit to Britain to return to Moscow. Before leaving Edinburgh he said : "We have suffered the great and tragic loss of our old friend and comrade, Comrade Marshal Ustinov, who has passed away."

This was the first official acknowledgment of the death. Earlier, news in Moscow came from an attendant at the Hall of Columns, where the World Chess Championship has been in progress. He said there would be no play yesterday because the Marshal was dead and the hall was required for the lying-in-state.

The announcement was the second item in the main television news bulletin (Time).

After an item on an award to collective farms in Turkmenia and a 30-second pause a somber-faced newsreader announced the marshals death.

He read an 11-minute declaration from the Communist Party Central Committee, listing all the marshall's awards, giving a resume of his life and describing his illness and details of the lying-in-state and funeral.'

The news was given five minutes earlier on Radio Moscow's English-language service and 10 minutes previously on the English service of Tass.

It was also announced that the former Communist Party chief of Leningrad, Mr Grigori Romanov, would be in charge of the funeral commission for the full state ceremony expected on Monday. He is therefore the prime candidate to succeed Marshal Ustinov as the head of the Soviet military and defence industry complex.

If Mr Romanov does get the job it will continue the tradition of a civilian party official controlling the ministry of defence, a tradition began with Marshal Ustinov in 1976.

The death raises the question of the pecking order among the professional military men after the suprising

Death breaks link with Stalin era, Politburo loses "moderate voice," page 4

replacement as chief of staff of Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov last September. Marshal Ogarkov was seen by western diplomats in Moscow as a dove in support of Marshal Ustinov, who had restrained the growth in the defence budget to about 2 per cent a year throughout his time in office.

The news was announced as Mr Gorbachev was flying from London to Edinburgh. Soviet officials had a hurried conference at the airport with Mr George Younger, the Scottish Secretary, and it was decided that the visit to Holyrood Palace and lunch in the city [illegible] was prepared for the visitor straight back to Moscow.



Dmitri Ustinov—ill since September

Before his abrupt departure Mr Gorbachev said he thought his visit had been a major political and commercial success. A good beginning, he said, had been made in a new relationship between Britain and the Soviet Union.

The most important thing was to build relationships between states of different social and political systems, bearing in mind the need for equality.

This message, he said, was intended not only for the British Government and the British Parliament but for the whole of the British public and business communities. They were grateful for the friendly and sympathetic reception they had received — not least from the media, which he thanked for objective coverage.

Mr Younger, who said he was speaking on behalf of the Government, also said that the visit had been a very great success and had ushered in a new phase of relations between the key countries.

An important visit to the vast North Sea gas plant in Fife, scheduled for today, had to be cancelled as well as a visit to the Scottish Agricultural Engineering Institute.

After Mr Romanov, the other likely man to succeed Marshal Ustinov is Mr Viktor Kukhov, the head of the Warsaw Pact and perceived to be a hawk who believes in maintaining the present Soviet superiority in conventional weapons.

Marshal Ustinov was remarkable not only for his control over the defence budget but for his purely civilian career. Having begun as a machine-tool workman at a Leningrad arms factory, he rose through the party's ranks in the 1930s and made his reputation during the war as commissar for armaments.

The remarkable logistical feat which evacuated most Soviet industry to the Urals in the path of the German advance in 1941 was largely his work.

He spoke in moderate terms

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Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the senior Soviet Politburo member, being presented with flowers and shortbread in Edinburgh yesterday, before the announcement of his colleague's death

Court releases legal funds to NUM

By Patrick Wintour, Labour Staff

A Dublin court has agreed to release to the National Union of Mineworkers some of the union's £2.7 million frozen in a Dublin bank account.

The court said that some of the money could be released to finance the union's attempt to persuade the Irish courts to release the NUM's entire £2.7 million. Mr Michael Arnold, the receiver appointed by the English courts to run the NUM's finances, is to appeal against the decision, which was made on Thursday.

Mr Arnold believes that since his appointment all English and foreign courts should recognise only his claim to the NUM's funds. He is expected to mount his legal attempt to repatriate the Dublin funds in January.

News of the surprising decision in Dublin was given yesterday in the English High Court to Mr Justice Nicholls by Mr Howard Page, representing the sequestrators appointed to freeze the funds.

While the four sequestrators were reporting their progress to Mr Justice Nicholls, Mr Arnold was reporting in camera to Mr Justice Mervyn Davies in a separate court room. Mr Arnold refused to comment afterwards on the substance of his report.

Mr Page also told Mr Justice Nicholls that the sequestrators are seeking a court order instructing the NUM's national leaders, Mr Arthur Scargill, Mr Peter Heathfield and Mr Mick McGahey, to write to the Dublin bank formally handing control of the fund to the sequestrators. Similar orders have already been served on the three men in respect of a Luxembourg account.

Mr Page revealed that the National Union of Railwaymen lent the NUM £100.000 in cash after the court's appointment of the sequestrators. The loan was passed to Mr A. Fairest,

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Picket line harmony, page 2; Holidaying NUM leader urged to quit, dons' accountancy attacked, back page.

Women at Ford win job review

By John Ardill, Labour Correspondent

FORD'S sewing machinists at Dagenham and Halewood are to get an independent review of their job to see if they should be promoted to a higher grade. National negotiators who agreed this formula with the company yesterday are to recommend that the machinists, mainly women, accept the plan and call off their strike, which has cost the company almost £250 million in lost vehicles.

The company's previous proposals were rejected by the 270 machinists because the review was to be carried out by company officials under an independent chairman.

Under the new proposal, the panel will have a chairman familiar with the company's job evaluation scheme but not otherwise involved and two other members nominated by the parties, who will also appoint observers.

The panel will "reprofile" the machinists' job in accordance with the system laid down in 1967 to determine their pay grade. The task is likely to take two months. The machinists want promotion to a higher grade which would give them an extra £6.67 a week, bringing their pay to £144.64.

If the plan is approved at mass meetings on December 28, Ford's plants — which closed for the holiday on Thursday — should be back at work as scheduled on January 2. Meetings will then be held at the six plants laid off by the strike on the company's 7 per cent pay offer which has been delayed by the dispute. The offer has already been accepted by a majority of Ford workers.

Mr Ron Todd, the TGWU general secretary-elect, said : "We achieved today what we have been arguing for the last four weeks. We said all the way through it should be independent arbitration."

Defence row grows

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Dr David Owen, the Social Democrat leader, accused the Prime Minister yesterday of "dubious behaviour" in agreeing to the appointment of Mr Peter Levene, the chairman of United Scientific Holdings, one of the fastest-growing defence companies, to head the Ministry of Defence procurement programme.

The decision, which has provoked a furious row in Westminster and Whitehall, had serious implications for the senior Civil Service, including the relationship between fulltime career officials and political appointees, he said.

In a letter to Mrs Thatcher, Dr Owen said that Mr Levene had been given the status of a civil servant when it was clear that he was an overtly political figure. His five-year term would last longer than the life of the present government.

The £95,000 a year salary was vastly in excess of other departmental heads in Whitehall. It would have major repercussions for the Top Salaries Review Body, which recommends pay rates for the most senior civil servants.

The Ministry of Defence denied that Mr Levene was officially a civil servant. The appointment did not come within the terms of the 1982 Civil Service Order in Council — for which Mrs Thatcher is responsible — and was not approved by the Civil Service Commission. Yet Mr Levene will have executive authority over civil servants who, under

Turn to back page, col. 5

DHSS to appeal over pill curb

By David McKie

The Department of Health is taking the issue of doctors' rights to give contraceptive services to under-16s to the House of Lords.

The Health Minister, Mr Kenneth Clarke, said yesterday that it was plainly in the public interest that the law should be made clear by a ruling from the highest court. He hoped that the case would be heard quickly.

The Appeal Court ruled on Thursday in favour of Mrs Victoria Gillick, of Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, who had challenged DHSS guidance to doctors that they could give contraceptives or advice on contraception to under-age girls without telling their parents.

Mr Clarke said yesterday that departmental guidance on the provision of contraceptive and abortion services to under-16s had been suspended. The DHSS would be bringing the Court of Appeal's decision to the attention of doctors, health authorities and others responsible for providing medical services.

"We shall be considering all the very wide implications of the judgment," Mr Clarke said.

The decision to go to the Lords will displease a number of Tory backbenchers, who strongly back Mrs Gillick's campaign.

A motion declaring that it would be wrong for the DHSS to challenge her victory has been put down by Mr Teddy Taylor (Southend East), Mr Peter Bruinvels (Leicester East), Mr Gerald Howarth (Cannock and Burntwood), Mr David Amess (Basildon), Mr David Atkinson (Bournemouth East), and Mr Roger Gale (Thanet North).

Doctors survey Gillick minefield, page 2

The British Medical Association yesterday emphasised that girls under 16 can still be prescribed contraceptives as an emergency without their parents being told.

In new guidelines to GPs the BMA said that the judgment did not suggest that a doctor who prescribed the pill for a girl under 16 to safeguard her health without consulting her parents would be guilty of a criminal offence.

The BMA said that doctors would still have to take into account "uncaring parents" who, for example, have thrown a 15-year-old girl out of the house and who sexually abuse their children.

"In such cases we expect doctors to weigh up the damage that will be caused to the patient if she becomes pregnant against the implied risk to the doctor of action by parents who have already shown their lack of care for the girl," the BMA said.

"If failure to prescribe contraceptives or to continue prescribing contraceptives would have an immediate, adverse effect on the health of the girl, we would hope that this would be regarded as an emergency in law as it is in medicine," it added.

Police in Wisbech confirmed last night that they had dealt with an incident where youths gathered outside the house of the Gillick family.

Mrs Gillick said that gangs of youths had kicked the front door, shouted abuse, and kicked and punched some of her 10 children in the street. "Most of the attacks come from teenage men who feel my campaign is depriving them of something," she said.

Beirut car bombing kills four

From Reuter, in Beirut

A 440-pound car bomb killed four people and injured 32 others, including 19 schoolchildren, at a Druze village school near Beirut yesterday. The bombing started an artillery duel in which shells crashed into the Christian sector of the capital, local radios reported.

Druze radio said that a bomb in a green Mercedes car exploded at Ras el-Metn in the mountains 10 miles east of Beirut—an area controlled by the Syrian army. It was the fourth major attack on Druze targets in Lebanon in three weeks.

Within minutes of the blast Druze fighters fired at least four shells into Ashrafiyeh, the hub of Christian east Beirut, injuring three people, Christian radio said.

Three shells also exploded near the presidential palace and the Ministry of Defence in the hill suburbs of Beirut, it said.

Druze radio said the Druze-held town of Bhamdoun, across the valley from Ras el-Metn, came briefly under shell fire.

Calling for blood donations for hospitals treating the wounded, Druze radio blamed "suspicious departments" for the blast. In the past the phrase has meant government agencies allegedly controlled by the Druze's rivals in the Christian Falange Party.

As in three recent similar attacks it was unclear who was behind yesterday's bombing.

Druze and Christian militias yesterday also shelled each others' positions in the Kharroub region about 15 miles south of the capital.

Picture, Page 6

Princess misses royal christening

By a Staff Reporter

Prince Henry Charles Albert David, third in line to the throne, was christened yesterday in St George's Chapel, Windsor, in the presence of the whole Royal Family, apart from his aunt, Princess Anne, and her husband, Mr Mark Phillips.

Suggestions that there was some significance to the absence of Princess Anne were encouraged by reports that she and Mr Phillips were observed leaving their home at Gatcombe Park, Gloucestershire, yesterday morning dressed for shooting. Their two children, Peter and Zara were, however, at the service.

The christening was followed by a lunch at Windsor Castle at which Prince Harry's health was toasted with champagne. Princess Anne and Mr Phillips remained absent.

Later that afternoon, as dusk fell over Gatcombe, a convoy of six vehicles, believed to include among its passengers Princess Anne, Mr Phillips and his father, Major Peter Phillips, returned to the house. A quantity of rabbits, believed dead, were also on board.

Princess Anne and Mr Phillips were later joining the royal party at Windsor. Buckingham Palace described their absence from the christening as unfortunate, but was reluctant to elaborate. Others less circumspect were pointing out that Prince Charles and Princess Diana spent some time arriving at a christening date convenient for all members of the Royal Family.

The Archbishop of Canterbury conducted the christening, and a chorister disclosed later that Prince Harry cried for only two or three minutes. The choir sang the Thomas Talis anthem, Oh Lord Give Thy Holy Spirit Into Our Hearts, and the Royal Family joined in the two hymns All People That On Earth Do Dwell and Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer.

Prince Harry wore the Honiton lace robe used by many royal babies before him. Prince Andrew and Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones are among the godparents.



Her best Christmas present was a future.

Last Christmas Annie Woolton was in hospital recovering from a major heart operation. This year, thanks to heart research, she's alive, well, and looking forward to a lifetime of Christmases.

Yet heart research itself is now in need of help if it is to survive.

And the British Heart Foundation is the charity that was set up to ensure it does.

By raising the money to fund heart research we've achieved a great deal. But we need you to join us in making heart disease a thing of the past.

We can't beat heart disease without you.

Please send me more information on the work of the BHF and details of how I can help.
Send this coupon to the British Heart Foundation, 102 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4DH.

HS/G/12

Name:

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British Heart Foundation
The heart research charity.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Minister defends 'stay low'

THE FULL weight of the law — including six months' imprisonment — should be used to punish motorists convicted of the worst offences of drinking and driving, the Transport Minister, Mrs Lynda Chalker, told Independent Radio News yesterday. Fines of up to £2,000 could also be imposed.

She also defended the Government's controversial "stay-low" campaign against Christmas drink-driving as one of the most powerful ever held.

In a short Commons debate she hit back at critics—including the Automobile Association and the British Medical Association—who claimed that the campaign could encourage drinking.

The campaign had been aimed particularly at young people, who were inexperienced as drivers and with alcohol. "Every bit of evidence we have indicates that to adopt a heavy-handed, authoritarian approach just produces an immediate switch-off," said Mrs Chalker.

The campaign gave no comfort to anyone tempted to take the gamble of drinking and driving.

Chess delayed by Ustinov's death

THE much interrupted world chess series in Moscow, in which Karpov leads Kasparov 5-1, suffered another setback yesterday when the 35th game was postponed. The venue at the House of Unions was required for Marshal Ustinov's lying in state.

Monday's scheduled playing session, the day of his funeral, has also been cancelled, so that game 35 will take place on December 26.

Inquest adjourned on M25 victims

A CORONER heard yesterday that a full investigation was still being carried out into the crash on the M25 motorway at Godstone in Surrey in which nine people were killed.

The inquest on six men and one woman was opened at Oxted, Surrey, but adjourned by the coroner, Lt-Col George McEwan, to a date to be fixed. The inquest on the two other victims was opened at Guildford a week earlier.

Bail eased for CND members

ALL restrictions preventing 10 CND members from entering Whitehall or Parliament Square were yesterday lifted by an Appeal Court judge in London. Bail for the 10 will now depend only on not causing wilful obstruction.

The judge's decision follows a ruling last week by Mr Justice Bingham that similar restrictions on three other CND members were unreasonable. The restrictions were imposed by a Marylebone stipendiary magistrate, Mr Brian Canham.

Gremlin toys 'may kill children'

SAFETY experts have set up a special squad to track down Gremlin toys, which they say could be fatal if swallowed by young children.

The toys, which are imported from Taiwan and are being sold by street traders in Essex, vary in size from half an inch to 12 inches, and when placed in water they expand to 500 times their original size.

MP joins Labour's front bench team

A LABOUR MP who entered the Commons at last year's election has been added to the party's Commons front bench team.

The Labour leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, has invited Mr Nick Brown, Labour MP for Newcastle East, to work alongside the legal affairs spokesman, Mr John Morris. Before his election Mr Brown was legal officer for the northern region of the General, Municipal and Boilermakers' Union.

Hopes of coach strike settlement

COACH services to and from South Wales are expected to resume in full today after settlement of a two-week strike, National Express said last night.

After talks with the Transport and General Workers' Union, the company said that both sides were confident that the settlement would be accepted at a meeting of the union's branch committee in Cardiff last night.

Wary doctors survey the Gillick victory minefield

Confidentiality could mean legal conflicts before the Lords rule on contraception and parents' consent.

By Stephen Cook

A REGULAR flow of doctors telephoned the British Medical Association headquarters in London yesterday, asking for guidance about the Appeal Court judgment which says that prescribing contraception for girls under 16 without parental consent is unlawful.

The most immediate problem faced by some callers concerns patients under 16 already prescribed the pill without parental consent who return for repeat prescriptions. Does the judgment mean that they must refuse the prescription or break confidence with the patient and tell the parents?

Many other problems have been thrown up by the judgment, which prompted the Department of Health yesterday to suspend its existing guidance allowing doctors to give contraception and abortion advice to under-age girls in some circumstances where they refuse to involve their parents.

Conflict has been established between a doctor's ethical duty of confidentiality to patients and the law's requirements.

The ethical code allows breaches of confidentiality if doctors believe that there is "an overriding duty to society"—a provision designed to let them report serious crime. They will have to decide whether conforming to this judgment is such an overriding duty—and be answerable to the General Medical Council.

Doctors can now be sued for damages by parents who learn that a daughter has been given contraception without their consent. It also seems possible that they could risk criminal prosecution for sexual assault if an internal examination is involved—although some lawyers think this unlikely.

It is unclear whether the judgment relates only to chemical contraception or to barrier methods, such as the cap.

The judgment says that doctors can prescribe without parental consent in an emergency, but this is not defined. Is a doctor legally safe, for example, in giving the "morning after" pill to a girl who had sexual intercourse and feared that her parents might find out? And what happens if the mother and father disagree about consent?

The BMA yesterday sent new guidance to its members and said it anticipated that the Department of Health's appeal to the House of Lords would be heard within a month. It hopes that the Lords will overrule the Appeal Court.

The guidance says that doctors successfully persuade most girls to get parental consent before prescribing the pill.

"The judgment does not suggest that the doctor who prescribes the pill for a girl under 16 for the purpose of safeguarding her health without consulting her parents will be guilty of a criminal offence," it says.

"We are concerned about serious problem families where doctors have to take into account uncaring parents who, for example, have thrown a 15-year-old girl out of the house and who sexually abuse their children. In such cases we expect doctors to weigh up the damage that will be caused to the patient if she becomes pregnant against the implied risk to the doctor of action by parents who have already shown their lack of care for the girl."

If failure to prescribe or continue prescribing contraceptives would have immediate adverse effect on a girl's health the BMA hopes that this would be regarded "as an emergency in law, as it is in medicine."

Doctors can claim they are safeguarding health by prescribing the pill, in a direct sense to regulate painful menstruation, for example, or in an indirect sense by preventing a pregnancy which they judge would be physically or emotionally harmful.

But it is not certain that their definitions of safeguarding health would now survive judicial scrutiny where angry parents felt that the doctor had simply helped their daughter to have secret—and illegal—sexual intercourse.

Ms Rachel Hodgkin, of the Children's Legal Centre, said yesterday that the judgment meant that a child's body was, for legal purposes, the same as the parents' own bodies. It lacked any recognition of young people's common law rights.

She said the centre thought consent should be related to understanding—if a doctor considered the patient mature enough to understand treatment and its implications, parental involvement was not essential.

There was concern in many quarters yesterday that the judgment would make girls who are at odds with their parents frightened of going to doctors about sexual matters, such as VD.

Holiday harmony among pickets

By John Ardill, Labour Correspondent

STRIKERS in festive dress sang carols on picket lines in Yorkshire and South Wales yesterday as pits began their last shift before shutting down for the holidays. In some areas picketing is expected to continue over the holiday in case the National Coal Board tries to move coal stocks.

Most working pits closed last night for up to 11 days, although Scottish pits will not start their main break until next weekend. The police national reporting centre at Scotland Yard said that individual chief constables would decide whether there would be a police presence on picket lines.

In the Selby coalfield regular pickets in fancy dress invited policemen to join them in singing carols. About 10 strikers at Whitemoor, in dress ranging from Santa Claus to Sir Walter Raleigh, exchanged caps for policemen's helmets and joked with about 20 officers.

One constable said: "The regular pickets here are a really smashing bunch of lads. It was a nice gesture at this time of the year." A picket, Mr Jeff Hudson, dressed in Regency costume, said: Police and pickets are friendly here anyway, so it seems the natural thing to do. It's what Christmas is all about."

At the Celynen South pit near Newbridge, South Wales, NUM lodge officials dressed as Santa Claus and reindeer carolled at police and 27 working miners. Police were offered, and declined, presents of toy plastic pigs.

Celynen has seen the worst picket line clashes in South Wales. The lodge chairman, Mr Carl Browning, said: We wanted to enter the festive spirit and show the scabs coming in that we are human beings."

South Wales area NUM began distributing 20,000 turkeys to strikers and £100,000 worth of toys donated by trade unionists in Holland, France and Belgium.

In Glasgow the print union Sogat sent 10,000 chickens for miners' families. Nottingham women's miners support group wil today give strikers' families £10,000 worth of toys donated from all paris of the UK and abroad.

After the failure of TUC Attempts to get negotiations going, the NCB will be hoping for a fresh surge back to work after Christmas.

The chairman, Mr Ian MacGregor, is not expected back from the United States until January 2.

The board ends the year with 66 of its 174 collieries producing coal and preparatory work and maintenance going on at another 32, where some men are working. Only 26 pits are strike-bound, 21 of them in South Wales.

Four North Staffordshire miners sacked after being charged with assault at Hem Heath colliery in September will not get their jobs back even though their cases were dropped, the NCB confirmed yesterday.

Cases against Mr David Wemyss, Mr Stan Edwards, Mr Brian McKean and Mr Keith Bolton were dismissed at Stoke crown court when the prosecution offered no evidence after they had all agreed to be bound over for 12 months. They denied the charge.



COAL CHORUS: Striking miners and police sing carols on the picket line at Whitemoor pit in the Selby field.

Anti-Apartheid attacks CEGB uranium trade

By David Pallister

The Foreign Office insisted yesterday that Britain does not buy uranium from South Africa despite documentary evidence seen by the Guardian showing that the Central Electricity Generating Board bought 350,000lbs two months ago.

The deal was sealed by the board's procurement organisation with Escom, the South African Electricity Supply Commission. The Anti-Apartheid Movement yesterday called for an explanation and questioned whether the trade received ministerial approval.

In a letter to Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Office minister, Mr Bob Hughes, the Labour MP and chairman of the movement, said it made a mockery of Britain's policy. Last month Mr Rifkind said that there were no imports of uranium from South Africa.

The source of the uranium has also led to informed speculation that the United States may have been indirectly involved. Escom is not the normal marketing agency in South Africa. The country's uranium — with the third largest production in the world — is sold abroad by the Nuclear Fuels Corporation.

Under a 1974 agreement the US department of energy agreed to enrich South African uranium oxide for the two pressurised water reactors, Koeberg I and II near Cape Town. But when the republic refused to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty in 1978 and rejected international inspection of its pilot uranium enrichment plant Washington suspended its side of the agreement. The existing stocks of low-grade enriched uranium at the energy department's nuclear facility in Portsmouth, Ohio, were finally sold by Escom to a Japanese company and five US facilities.

It is still not clear, however, whether the agreement has been aborted. Escom was obligated to supply more uranium oxide to America every year from 1983 to 1992. If this is still going ahead, with enriched uranium being sold to third parties, the CEGB purchase may have come from American-based stocks.

The 15 American nuclear power companies already buy 7 per cent of their needs from South Africa. Japan, Germany and Taiwan are the other countries buying the raw uranium.

The approval given to the deal by the Euratom Supply Agency — further complicates the issue. A senior official at the Brussels headquarters said yesterday that he knew nothing of the purchase. He expressed surprise that Escom should have been the seller.

Shipyard workers ignore advice of unions and seek redundancy

By Peter Hetherington, Northern Labour Correspondent

Workers are ignoring the advice of trade unions and flooding to volunteer for redundancy at state-owned shipyards, according to provisional estimates.

Swan Hunter Shipbuilders, on Tyneside, the second largest subsidiary within British Shipbuilders, confirmed yesterday that so many workers had applied for information on redundancy terms that it could be over-subscribed.

The company, which employs 7,200, wants to shed 2,100 jobs by February, but 2,700 workers have expressed interest.

When the cuts were announced last month the corporation said it could prove difficult to achieve the required redundancies by voluntary means in an area of high unemployment. Average redundancy pay will amount to little more than £10,000.

Mr Andy Murray, a senior shop steward at Swan Hunter, yesterday blamed the high number of volunteers on disillusionment with corporation policy since nationalisation. Workers, he said, had accepted low wage increases and been pushed from third to 24th in the national wages league in the interests of achieving greater productivity and success for BS.

Now, he said, average pay stood at £120, with many workers taking home well under £100 a week and qualifying for a variety of welfare benefits in addition to rent and rate rebates and free school meals for their children. "I have never ever known morale so low," he added.

Mr Denis Shadbolt, the Swan Hunter director of industrial relations and personnel, said the company was anxious to avoid compulsory redundancies if at all possible. Asked why so many workers had expressed an interest in leaving, he said: "I can only assume it is the attraction of the money."

Swan Hunter is thought to be in line for two Ministry of Defence orders for Type 22 frigates for the Royal Navy.

MP asks for tunnel fire inquiry

By Michael Morris

Mr Geoffrey Dickens, MP for Littleborough and Saddleworth, yesterday called on ministers to order a full inquiry into the Pennine rail tunnel blaze, the second train crash involving dangerous fuels this month.

As the fire in the Summit tunnel near Todmorden, north of Manchester, appeared to be out last night, he said the incidents raised safety questions concerning tankers containing the fuels on the railways.

The MP asked the transport secretary, Mr Nicholas Ridley, and the energy secretary, Mr Peter Walker, to hold an inquiry into the incident in which a gas oil tanker on a derailed train exploded in the 2,885-yard long tunnel between Littleborough and Todmorden on Thursday.

He said: "This must be carried out urgently because we can only thank God that the train exploded in a tunnel. If it had become derailed while travelling through a built-up area many people could have been killed."

Mr Dickens remarked: "It raises the question of the suitability of containers used for transporting these dangerous fuels, and whether they are up to the job. I think they have a life of 20 years, and I wonder what their actual condition was.

"This load was just like a bomb. We could possibly have lost a whole housing estate if it had been an explosion in a built-up area."

On December 4 two people were killed and 77 injured when an inter-city passenger train crashed into the back of a 15-tanker fuel train in Salford.

The Department of Transport said last night that Major C. F. Roads, chief inspecting officer of railways, had decided to order a formal inquiry into the Summit tunnel incident. British Rail is carrying out its own investigation. Fears of an explosion have receded, along with those that the tunnel would collapse as the result of the fire.

Firemen were last night planning to go into the tunnel to inspect the damage. So far, eight out of 14 tankers have been inspected, and firemen have been trying to reach the remainder. Families who had been evacuated from the nearby village were expected to return home last night.

Cleaners are offered triple pay to cross hospital picket lines

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

Cleaners have been offered triple rates of pay to cross picket lines on Christmas Day and Boxing Day at Addenbrooke's hospital in Cambridge.

They work for OCS (Hospital) Services Ltd, the company at the centre of a privatisation dispute at the hospital.

The offer of £5.18½p an hour — the basic National Health Service rate is £1.72½p — comes as the company faces a deadline of January 22 to improve standards to the satisfaction of Cambridge Health Authority.

It is the same rate as NHS staff receive in hospitals not contracted out to private companies for similar hours of work over the Christmas period.

The dispute started when OCS took over the Crothalls 12 weeks ago. The company won a £725,000 contract, but ended NHS conditions of service, including holidays, sick pay, and pensions. Staff received basic NHS pay but fewer were employed to cover the same duties.

Former Crothall's employees refused to accept the terms of service and picketed the hospital. An internal report by Cambridge health authority claimed that the firm had low standards of cleaning in many wards, a lack of quality control, and failed to recruit properly trained staff. Monitoring by the authority also showed large turnover of casual staff recruited to the company.

A health authority spokesman said: "Unless substantial improvement in performance is reported to the authority's meeting on January 22 a meeting will be asked for with the board of the parent company of OCS to review the whole position under the contract they have guaranteed."

The authority was condemned yesterday by Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Labour Party, and Mr Michael Meacher, its social services spokesman, for not ending the contract.

Mr Kinnock said: "The health authority has now recognised and condemned the contractor's failures at two successive meetings, yet it has taken no action to terminate its unfulfilled contract and get the job done properly.

"It continues to cock a snook at a band of committees and caring staff who have remained outside the hospital for 12 weeks. These men and women refused to take jobs with the contractor because they knew the staffing levels which have been halved, were too low to get the work done.

"I am scandalised that these unselfish people now face Christmas out in the cold. I appeal to everyone concerned with health in this country to recognise what the Government is doing by squandering the most precious asset of the health service—its dedicated staff."

OCS has declined to tender for cleaning services at Peterborough District Hospital, it was announced yesterday.

Libyan detainee will be home for Christmas

By Staff Reporters

Mr Malcolm Pike, a Briton who has been detained in Libya since June, can return home for Christmas, the House of Commons was told yesterday. Mr Pike has been detained in Libya since a civil action was brought against the company he was working for in a dispute with the Libyan authorities over tax problems.

Foreigners involved in civil cases in Libya are required to hand over their passports to the authorities until the legal process has run its course.

Mr Timothy Raison, Home Office minister, said in the Commons yesterday that the Italian consul in Tripoli had helped to arrange the return of Mr Pike's passport for his Christmas visit to his parents. It is normal practice for the Libyans to allow a foreign national to leave the country in these circumstances so long as somebody else surrenders their passport until the defendant returns.

Mr Pike's passport has been returned to him via the Italian consul to the British consul in Tripoli. The issue was raised in the Commons yesterday by Mr Nicholas Baker, Conservative MP for Dorset North and Mr Pike's MP, who said he welcomed the news and hoped that Mr Pike would be able to join his parents at Christmas. This will be the third occasion that Mr Pike has left Libya

MP to retire

MR LAURIE PAVITT, the Labour MP for Brent South, is to stand down at the next election. He was expected to face competition for the Labour nomination during the re-selection process with Mr Ken Livingstone, leader of the Greater London Council, a possible contender.

Mr Pavitt, who is 70, is troubled by deafness. He was first elected in 1959 for Willesden West and became MP for Brent South in 1974 after redistribution. He had a majority of 10,519 at the general election.

Mr Livingstone has been a strong contender for the neighbouring seat of Brent East, held by Mr Reg Freeson. Attempts were made to de-select Mr Freeson before the last election. He faces a further threat in the re-selection process, now beginning.

Mr Pavitt was an assistant government whip from 1974 to 1976, but has mainly specialised in health and social service issues.

Torture plea

A petition signed by 21,000 people, including more than 35 bishops, supporting Amnesty International's campaign against torture, was presented to the Commons yesterday.

The petition, presented by the Labour home affairs spokesman, Mr Alf Dubs, urges the Government to support the UN convention against torture.

Privatisation will bring surge in NHS disputes

By Susan Tirbutt

There will be hundreds of disputes over privatisation in the National Health Service next year if the Government continues in its present course, Mr Jeremy Corbyn, Labour MP for Islington North, warned the Commons yesterday.

He said health authorities were set up to ensure a healthy population. Privatisation meant that district health authorities would become conveyancing mechanisms for passing money from the public purse into the private purse. Huge profits would be made out of low wages and inadequate and ineffectual services.

The authorities would look back at the damage they had done to the health service and to the lives of so many people who had given so much to it, Mr Corbyn said.

He said there were three or four disputes about privatisation in the health service. Next year the Government would have hundreds of disputes if it continued on its present course.

Mr John Patten, health and social security parliamentary under-secretary, said that from Mr Corbyn's continuous references to trade unions and the needs of trade unionists it was clear that he believed the NHS existed primarily for the benefit of the staff.

It was the patients whom the NHS sought to serve.

Falklands rules changes

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, yesterday handed the Commons foreign affairs committee a detailed list of changes in the rules of engagement during the Falklands conflict — one of the issues at the heart of the Belgrano controversy and the Official Secrets Act charges against Mr Clive Ponting, a senior Ministry of Defence civil servant.

He did so after persistent pressure from committee members who discovered from internal ministry documents in August that the Government was attempting to mislead them about the number of changes in the rules of engagement and when they were made.

The documents showed how the ministry intended to give just the briefest of summaries with no mention of the change which gave the task force authority to sink the Belgrano. This approach was reflected in a cursory memo sent to the committee in July by the armed forces minister, Mr John Stanley.

Internal ministry documents also disclosed that the war cabinet delayed warning Argentina about the changes of May 2 1982, the day the cruiser was sunk. The documents were allegedly sent to the Labour MP, Mr Tam Dalyell, by Mr Ponting. Mr Dalyell then passed them on to the foreign affairs committee.

Mr Stanley has told Mr George Foulkes, a Labour foreign affairs spokesman, that the submarine Conqueror, which attacked the Belgrano, reported to fleet headquarters at Northwood, outside London, on the afternoon of May 1 that it had sighted the cruiser.

This conflicts with evidence to the committee given by Lord Lewin, chief of defence staff at the time. Lord Lewin said that the message did not arrive until about midnight and that this was why ministers or their official advisers were not immediately informed. Mr Foulkes yesterday wrote to Mrs Thatcher about the inconsistency.

BMA drugs stand weakened

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

The Department of Health has undermined the British Medical Association's decision to refuse to cooperate over plans to introduce a limited list of drugs available on the National Health Service from April.

Seven medical advisers — most of them members of the British Medical Association — have agreed to met Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary in a series of consultations over the proposal. They were approached individually by Dr Donald Acheson, chief medical officer, on Thursday without the knowledge of the association.

The Department of Health announced the list last night and one of the new advisers, Dr John Tomlinson, a GP in Alton, Hampshire, condemned the BMA for taking "a useless stand" by refusing to talk over the issue.

Dr Tomlinson said: "I am doing what the BMA ought to be doing — talking about the proposed list. I see no point in not talking to people about a suggested list of drugs that ought not to be available on the NHS. I hope by talking to the department to put my point of view before a final decision is taken."

The other six members are: Professor Alastair Breckenridge, professor of clinical pharmacology at Liverpool University; Dr David Morrell, professor of general practice in London; Dr Colin Strand, professor of child health in London; Dr Malcolm Hodkinson, professor of geriatric medicine in London; Mr David Coleman, a retail chemist; and Dr Dunstan Jones.

The limited list of drugs would bar some 400 brand name drugs from tranquilisers to cough syrups and laxatives from NHS prescriptions. The proposal came from advice taken by Mr Fowler from the World Health Organisation, and has been followed by other European countries.

The BMA said last night that it did not want to comment about the appointments.

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RUC chief says courage of police 'prevented much grief'

IRA promises to continue war for 'free Ireland'

From Bob Rodwell in Belfast

Provisional IRA leaders yesterday gave an unequivocal pledge to continue the armed campaign in a message wishing supporters "a happy Christmas and a revolutionary new year."

And in a Christmas message to his force, the RUC chief constable, Sir John Hermon, spoke of the "dedication, courage and perseverance" of the police which had prevented much tragedy this year at the cost of nine officers' lives.

The Provisionals' predictably bellicose message admitted that they were going through a bad patch, with four men shot dead this month and a fifth drowned.

"This month has been particularly overshadowed by a succession of deaths of comrades who have laid down their lives so that we and our children may live to enjoy peace in a free Ireland . . . to our dead comrades we pledge never to bend the knee to our oppressors, never to compromise and never to lay down our arms.

"To our people we make not the promise but the guarantee of freedom that will be backed by all the force at our disposal and the strength of the moral superiority of our cause over that of naked British imperialism.

"No amount of intimidation or killings will cause the IRA to swerve from the course upon which it is set. Britain may realise by consideration of her inability to subdue us that her fate in Ireland is sealed and the days of her presence are numbered."

Sir John told his 13,000 regulars and reservists that 1984's great effort had undoubtedly produced an enhanced service to the community.

"I believe responsible and fair-minded people recognise your extraordinary service and impartial enforcement of the law in the most difficult circumstances and, not least, in the face of severe provocation and vicious propaganda," he said.

A body believed to be that of a Provisional IRA man drowned while escaping from a gunfight with undercover troops on December 2 was yesterday found in the river Banagh in County Fermanagh.

The man, Kieran Gerrard Fleming, aged 28, was one of 38 provisional IRA convicts who escaped from the Maze prison last year.

On Monday the Provisional IRA had announced that Fleming—who they did not name—had failed to return from a cross-border operation into Fermanagh and was last seen wading into the Bannagh.

In the exchange of shots on December 2, another provisional, Anthony McBride, and a British soldier, Lance Corporal Alastair Slater, of the Parachute Regiment were killed.

Fleming was a cousin of William Fleming, aged 19, one of two Provisional IRA men shot dead on December 6 near Londonderry as they prepared to ambush a part-time UDR man.

Police 'victims of killing cover-up'

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Mr Robert Green, a former Royal Navy intelligence officer and the nephew of Miss Hilda Murrell, whose death in March has brought allegations of foul play by the security forces, said yesterday that he believed the police were victims of a cover-up. "The whole thing stinks," he said.

He described the inquest at Shrewsbury on December 5 into his aunt's death as an appalling experience, and a total whitewash: "What have they got to hide?" he asked.

Mr Green, who now lives in Dorset, said he suspected that he was on a list of potential leakers the Ministry of Defence was compiling at about the time of his aunt's death when it was becoming increasingly concerned about the continuing controversy over the sinking of the Argentine cruiser, the General Belgano.

But he said that his aunt was no doubt also on a separate list as a potential "subversive" because of her criticism of the Government's attitude to nuclear waste.

Fourteen days before she died she had been given permission to provide evidence at the public inquiry into the Central Electricity Generating Board's plans to build Britain's first pressurised water reactor at Sizewell on the Suffolk coast.

"People may have felt they wanted to know more about the background to her submission. She would have been cross-examined by the nuclear industry and someone possibly wanted to know whether she had inside information," Mr Green said.

He said he was grateful to Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, for raising the matter in the Commons on Thursday, though he found it difficult to believe that the Belgrano was anything to do with his aunt's death. He pointed out that Mr Dalyell was pro-nuclear power. His aunt was not.

Indeed, in her planned submission to the Sizewell inquiry, Mr Green said, she demolished the Government's white paper on radioactive waste management. Mr Green said that he sympathised with his aunt's view.

He questioned the role of what he described as people in the "state security system." He said that he suspected that his aunt challenged someone when she returned home on March 21. She was then abducted, in Mr Green's view — something, he said, no ordinary burglar would have done. He insisted that she was not burgled for cash.

He said it seemed that the intruder then took her down a small road — Telford Way in Shrewsbury — to a quiet car park used by fishermen. That could have been the place for a pre-arranged rendezvous between an accomplice and the person who entered Miss Murrell's house.

Her car discovered by a farmer on March 24, had been left untouched for more than two days. Mr Green said that he could not believe that the police would not have checked and identified the registration number during that period.

Mr Green also denied reports that he was responsible for sending orders to the submarine Conqueror to attack the Belgrano during the Falklands campaign.

He said he had decided to leave the Navy — he had the rank of commander — two months before the conflict, to take advantage of a voluntary redundancy scheme.

The CEGB said yesterday that it had no comment



Families claim a victory in their battle to be rehoused by Camden council in London. They ended their four-week occupation of the town hall yesterday with speeches of triumph on a platform decorated by banners and tinsel.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Defence police inquiry

THE Government has decided to set up an inquiry into the role of the Ministry of Defence police in light of the growing number of demonstrations at military establishments, notably US nuclear bases. The inquiry, announced in the Commons yesterday by Mr Adam Butler, minister for defence procurement, will investigate the sensitive issue of the relationship between ministry police and local civil police forces.

The former are not allowed outside bases, while the local police are not allowed inside. There has been friction between the two at Greenham Common, where ministry police have at times released demonstrators without charge. There are also serious doubts about the ability of the ministry police — which is overstretched and has a high age profile — to contain demonstrations.

Teachers facing job shortage

NEWLY qualified teachers seeking jobs in nursery, primary, and middle schools continued to face most problems last year, with nearly 600 of them—17 per cent of those leaving college—still looking for posts.

Another 351 leavers are still seeking jobs in secondary schools, according to figures released by the Department of Education and Science. Art, craft, history, English, religious education, and geography specialists are among those with the highest rates o unemployment.

Glasgow honours Clydeside rebel

THE freedom of the city o Glasgow was conferred on Harry McShane, aged 93, the last of the famous Clydeside rebels yesterday. There was no loyal toast at the lunch, and at the close of the ceremony instead of the national anthem the councillors and their guests sang I Belong To Glasgow.

Mr McShane was gaoled three times during the 1920s for his part in leading rent strikes and organising workers' demonstrations.

Probation breached after five minutes

FIVE minutes after being put on probation at Snaresbrook Crown Court for attempted burglary Mark Murray, a warehouseman, stole his supervising officer's purse.

"It must be the fastest breach of probation on record," said Mr Michael Wood, prosecuting, at the Old Bailey yesterday. Mr Murray, aged 18, of Islington, London, admitted the theft and a series of burglaries and was given 30 months' youth custody.

Army training plan scrapped

THE Government is to scrap plans to use more than 500 acres of prime farmland at Luddesdown, Kent, for army training, after fierce opposition from local people.

Baronetcy barred to the colonel

A 91-YEAR-OLD retired colonel who claimed to be the rightful holder of the title of the 13th Baronet of Mochrum failed in his appeal for recognition yesterday.

Colonel William Dunbar, a former Royal Artillery officer of Herne Bay, Kent, petitioned the Lord Lyon King of Arms, who rules on matters of nobility in Scotland.

But the Lord Lyon upheld the right of the present baronet, Sir Jean Dunbar, a 66-year-old former American jockey, who lives in Florida. Col. Dunbar then appealed to three judges in the First Division of the Court of Session in Edinburgh, but they rejected his claim.

The colonel claimed that his father was twice married and that he was the son of the second marriage in 1890. However, his parents had to go through a second marriage ceremony in 1912 when it was discovered that the first wife had not died until 1910.

He claimed that he was legitimised in England in 1959 and in Scotland from 1968, and that he succeeded to the Dunbar of Mochrum name in 1959, or at least in 1968.

He argued that when Sir Jean's father succeeded to the title in 1953 his succession was subject to the possibility that a nearer born heir might emerge to deprive him of the title. Lord Emslie, Lord President, who presided in the appeal, with Lord Cameron and Lord Grieve, said the colonel had failed to persuade him that he became the heir male on or after 1968.

Sir Jean was the eldest son and heir of the 12th baronet, Sir Adrian Dunbar. He succeeded Sir Richard, the colonel's half-brother, who was baronet for only two days before he died.

The destination of the title was such that the only person who could answer the description of heir male of the first baronet was and must be the heir male of the last holder of the title.

Col Dunbar could not have become the heir male in 1968. He was not the heir male of his father and in 1953 he was not the heir male of his half-brother, the 11th baronet, whose heir male was Sir Adrian.

MPs protest at role of Special Branch

By David McKie, Correspondent

Labour MPs protested yesterday over the guidelines for Special Branch activity unexpectedly published late on Thursday by the Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan.

The main target of their complaints and their demands for further information was the role which appeared to be given to the special branch in industrial disputes.

The Labour employment spokesman, Mr John Prescott, wrote to Mr Brittan yesterday asking for further clarification. "As you will appreciate," he said, "this is a most sensitive area which involves the rights of our citizens, and in particular trade unionists who, in the judgment of some government ministers, are considered to be and are treated as the enemy within."

Mr Prescott said the guidelines had produced the first public acknowledgement that the special branch was monitoring union activities which might be judged subversive, though he accepted that the guidelines said the information must not be passed on to employers or other organisations.

Mr Prescott asked whether the definition of subversive activity related solely to possible acts of a criminal nature, or whether it also involved the branch in making political judgments.

He said he knew of Special Branch activity in photographing disputes and pickets, and introducing reports on the movements of individual trade unionists. He asked for more to be said about how such information was used, and asked if people approached by the Special Branch on the basis of such information and requested to identify individuals, had the right to refuse.

Mr Prescott said yesterday that the Government's definition of "subversives" was a threat to trade unions and trade unionists.

Tony Heath writes: A call for an independent judicial inquiry into the activities of the Special Branch was made yesterday by the president of Plaid Cymru, Mr Dafydd Elis Thomas, MP, who claimed that political policing was intensifying, particularly in Wales.

Speaking at Dolgellau, in his Meirionnydd Nant Conwy constituency, Mr Thomas said: "In a democracy the police have a duty to protect the right of those who disagree.

"Instead, the Special Branch guidelines published this week indicated that unaccountable public servants are free to act on any whim, fancy, or piece of misinformation. They equate democratic dissent with subversion."

Plaid Cymru had been collecting evidence of political policing for almost a year. The miners' strike had given rise to over-reaction by police on and off the picket line, Mr Thomas said. Interfering with activists' telephones was commonplace.

Plaid Cymru's initiative was welcomed by the Welsh Language Society.

Leader comment, page 10



John Prescott: concern over industrial disputes

Discord in water music

By a Correspondent

THE gift of a fountain for an old people's housing scheme has been refused by councillors — because they fear that the sound of running water would send residents dashing to answer the call of nature.

Medical experts have described the fears as "absurd," but members of Waverley Borough Council in Surrey decided that they knew better and decided to reject the offer.

Councillor Douglas Jack, chairman of the housing development sub-committee, said: "It was felt that the sound of running water has the psychological effect of making people want to travel along to the loo."

The £6,000 water sculpture by Kim Lim had been offered as a gift by the Public Art Development Trust and the new Ashgate Gallery, Farnham, as the centrepiece of a sheltered homes project to be built in the town.

The trust director, Mr Lesley Green, said: "I was astonished to learn that it had been rejected. There is no evidence at all to suggest that slowly and gently flowing water, as this sculpture is, will cause old people to lose their self-control."

None of the medical experts consulted by the councillors agreed that the fountain would affect the elderly in this way. Dr Angela Middleton of St Charles Hospital, London, said: "I know of no data suggesting that fountains induce incontinence in the elderly."

A consultant physician, Mr Martin Garland, said: "I cannot really consider the gentle burbling of water outside as a major threat to the home."

Alliance gains ground as main contender to Conservatives

By Martin Linton

THE Alliance is beginning to emerge as the main contender against the Tories not only in the South of England, where it benefits from a strong tactical support, but also among various voter groups such as the pensioners, the professional classes, and white-collar workers.

The detailed breakdown of the Guardian-Marplan index for December, which put the Alliance at 28 per cent, six points behind Labour at 32 per cent, shows they have moved into second place in all these groups.

The figures will fluctuate from month to month far more than the main voting intention figures because they are based on only a part of the sample, but the picture over the last five months shows unmistakably that the Alliance is firmly in second place or gaining ground on Labour in all the groups.

Most alarming for Labour is the over 65s, where it was in first place in August and now finds itself third behind the Tories and the Alliance with only 25 per cent of the vote. If this trend is confirmed it will show an alarming gap in the party's appeal which could prove very damaging.

The Alliance has usually been the second party among the professional classes for some time, but what will disturb Labour is that the Alliance has been in second place among clerical workers for three successive months, and this bodes ill for Labour in many suburban seats, where C1 voters are often a majority of the population.

The targeting of specific groups of voters is only in its infancy in Britain, and is far more developed in countries with proportional representation, where local issues and tactical considerations do not often influence voters.

SOUTH	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug
Con	46	46	44	43	42
Alli	28	26	24	29	30
Lab	25	27	30	27	27

OVER-65	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug
Con	45	47	40	43	36
Alli	30	26	28	20	23
Lab	25	29	31	33	40

PROFESSIONAL AB	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug
Con	62	53	49	52	55
Alli	24	26	24	34	26
Lab	12	18	26	13	16

CLERICAL C1	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug
Con	48	55	43	51	44
Alli	30	23	28	21	26
Lab	21	22	27	25	30

Labour accused as official is suspended

By a Correspondent

Liberal and Conservative councillors in Liverpool claimed yesterday that the city's ruling Labour group had suspended a council official for refusing to carry out its "jobs for the boys" policy.

Housing manager Mr John Kenny has been sent home on full pay pending an inquiry into allegations that he ruled out two candidates — both with Labour Party associations — for posts in his department because of their lack of qualifications.

Housing committee chairman, Mr Peter Owens, who ordered the suspension, said: "We will be carrying out an inquiry into Mr Kenny's conduct early in the new year. I am not prepared to say any more about it at the moment because it is an internal matter."

The decision has angered opposition councillors. Ms Rose Cooper, a Liberal, said: "I'm appalled at what the Labour Party has done. This time they have really overstepped the mark with their jobs for the boys policy.

"He was suspended for gross misconduct but neither the housing director nor the chief executive were prepared to take that action themselves."

The candidate 40-year-old Mr Kenny refused to consider a Labour member of a neighbouring council and a union shop steward. He declined to comment on the matter yesterday.

The suspension order will have to be referred to the housing committee for approval and the results of the inquiry will go before the city's personnel committee.

The RAF Benevolent Fund repays the debt we owe



The Royal Air Force reached a peak strength of 1,200,000 in 1944 and more than 1¾ million men and women served during the war years.

Thousands did not come back. Many lie in the forgotten corners of earth and sea. Many thousands more were left disabled—mentally and physically.

Each year demands on the Fund are increasing as the survivors of World War II and their dependants grow older and increasingly vulnerable to infirmity and economic hardship. To carry on its work, the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund must raise over £4,000,000 annually.

We need your help. Every donation we receive means we have more to give. Please remember the Fund in your Will, advice on legacies, bequests and covenants is gladly given. If you know of anyone who might qualify for help from the Fund please let us know.

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Dentist is gaoled

A dentist, Christopher Lock, was gaoled yesterday for indecently assaulting two women patients after a judge told him he had grossly betrayed the trust of his patients and the ethics of his profession.

Sentencing him to 12 months imprisonment, with a direction that he serve only the first half of the sentence, Judge Ross said: "You plainly fell prey to suppressed psychological forces which are unknown to most normal men. To that extent you are to be pitied."

His professional career was at an end and any prison sentence would seem catastrophic, he was told.

The father of three children, of Wishaw, near Birmingham, he had denied indecently assaulting Mrs Teresa Masterson, aged 25, at his surgery in Gravelly Hill North, Birmingham, in April 1981. He also denied indecently assaulting Tracey Rainsford, a 21-year-old former barmaid, at the surgery in October 1983. The jury took three hours to reach unanimous verdicts.

Both women had said Lock had indecently assaulted them as they sat in his surgery chair after being given sedative injections.

Tough-minded trouble-shooter takes the hot seat

By Andrew Moncur

Students and staff at the embattled Polytechnic of North London will find a new director when they return for the spring term.

DR John Beishon, who is taking over as acting director of the Polytechnic of North London in the new year, faces the immediate task of restoring peace and progress to its troubled community.

He brings to the job what is, by all accounts, a particularly good mind. It has enabled him to fight his way up the hard way, from factory apprentice to academic and manager, currently at the Polytechnic of the South Bank.

Once he has decided what must be done he will be demanding, blunt, and not afraid of courting opposition as he goes about it.

His academic background is in psychology. His special interest and the subject of pioneering work for his doctorate at Oxford, is the question of how people make decisions.

North London, would, in other circumstances, have provided rich opportunities for field research.

Mr Patrick Harrington, the National Front activist and philosophy student, is at the centre of many of the polytechnic's problems. He has decided to use the courts to uphold his right to be educated there and, at the same time, to punish the students who have decided to act illegally in attempts to prevent it.

The outgoing director, Dr David MacDowall, who has decided to take early retirement, has aroused intense anger among the polytechnic's paymasters at Ilea for his handling of affairs.

Dr Beishon has been chosen by the governors, with strong backing fron Ilea, to perform a trouble-shooting role. Ilea's inquiry into the internal management of the polytechnic will probably begin soon after he takes office in January.

Dr Beishon has been a vigorous and successful director of the South Bank since 1980. He has a gift for building management teams and he has overseen massive growth in that polytechnic's technology programme. He is a manager who can combine toughness and respect for democratic methods.

"He is the sort of person you can go out for a drink with, which is very unusual. Often polytechnic directors are more pompous than vice-chancellors," one colleague said yesterday.

A fellow academic who worked with him at Sussex University and at the Open University, where he was professor of systems, said: "He has often played the loner who has a different perspective to everyone els."

Mr Neil Fletcher, who chairs Ilea's further and higher education committee, believes that he will put new heart into the North London polytechnic.

"It is not an easy job but we are confident that there could be no one better qualified to tackle the deep problems that Dr MacDowall has bequeathed to his successor," he said.

And Dr Beishon is convinced that although the situation looks bad the highly visible problems are small by comparison with the amount of good work which goes on, quietly and out of sight, in the widely-scattered North London college.

Receiver to take over polytechnic student union

By Andrew Moncur and Alan Travis

The students' union at the troubled Polytechnic of North London faces take-over by a receiver after failing yesterday to produce a promise to obey High Court orders.

The union's executive was unable to find the necessary quorum of four members to consider whether they should give an undertaking to comply with an injunction, granted last Friday to the Attorney-General. It had the effect of outlawing donations from the students' union funds to striking miners and Ethiopian famine relief.

Donations of £5,000 were made to each cause by the students, in defiance of the court ruling. The Attorney-General, Sir Michael Havers, this week gained permission from the court to inspect the union's bank account.

An application to appoint a receiver to take over the students' union will be made on Monday before a vacation judge in the High Court. The receiver's task will be to ensure that no further ultra vires payments are made.

The students' union executive was to have met yesterday to discuss the court's demand. But Mr John Leatham, an executive member, said: "We honestly made every effort to do so but it has proved impossible. We have people who are actually out of the country. There is no way we can take a decision until the new year."

A cheque for £5,000 made out to a miners' support group in County Durham has been blocked by the union's bankers, the Midland Bank, on the grounds that it was an illegal payment. The other cheque, also for £5,000, has not been presented to the bank for payment by Oxfam after legal advice

But the students still aim to draw money from their funds to make the donation to miners' funds. "We can still draw cash up to certain amounts. We have found other, alternative methods to ensure that the miners receive their money. That money will be paid," said Mr Leatham.

Thatcher calls for ban on deployment of missiles • West waits to see who will fill Moscow power vacuum

Star Wars rift with Washington is denied

From Ian Aitken in Honolulu and Alex Brummer in Washington

Mrs Thatcher moved yesterday, on the eve of her Camp David talks with President Reagan, to head off further speculation about a potential rift between Britain and the US about the "Star Wars" weapons issue.

The Prime Minister denied that she is opposed to an American programme of research into such weapons, but she opposes the manufacture or deployment of such weapons before an attempt has been made to reach agreement with the Soviet Union on banning the deployment of Star Wars satellites and missiles.

Interviewed for BBC Radio Four aboard her RAF VC10, Mrs Thatcher said that it was the Soviet Union which had put up the first anti-satellite satellite and had pressed ahead with research into laser and electronic pulse technology in the 1970s.

In these circumstances, it was not only natural but advisable for the US to carry on with its own research programme.

The Prime Minister's remarks suggested that she has been stung into a public pronouncement by reports in Washington that she was likely to face a frosty reception at Camp David. To her evident annoyance, White House officials are said to have expressed the view earlier this week that she had been badly briefed on the space weapons issue.

The Camp David meeting today between President Reagan and Mrs Thatcher is viewed as highly important because of the European reservations about President Reagan's strategic defence initiative. There is clear concern in the Administration that Mr Mikhail Gorbachev made important inroads on European public opinion during his talks in Britain.

In an effort to calm doubts within Nato a senior White House official told correspondents that Star wars defences will be on the table when the Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, meets Mr Andrei Gromyko in Geneva on January 7. The Americans are now suggesting that there may be three sets of follow-up talks to Geneva—on Euromissiles, strategic systems, and defensive weapons such as the already tested Star Wars device which can knock out incoming warheads.

American officials briefing correspondents ahead of Mrs Thatcher's visit sought to minimise the emerging differences between the Administration and the British about the strategic defence initiative which was first unveiled by President Reagan in March, 1983. They said that critical remarks by British officials earlier this week had "been misinterpreted and misunderstood."

Mrs Thatcher is "level-headed" one senior official said and "as far as her statements are concerned there is no basis for grave concern in Washington." It was acknowledged that Mrs Thatcher, like other European leaders, was worried about the arms race spreading into space, but the US official said there was "no essential disagreement on this."

The talks between Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan were expected to be unaffected by the death in Moscow of the Defence Minister, Marshal Ustinov. US officials noted that he had been out of the public eye for several months and they expected no change in direction of the Kremlin leadership as a result of his departure from the scene. "The entire Soviet leadership is one which we can do business with," an official said.

Mrs Thatcher has made no secret of her view that a failure to ban weapons in space would give a dangerous and highly expensive twist to the arms race between Russia and America. She can be expected to encourage President Reagan to give priority to the resumption of arms talks next month.

But it is clear that she is irritated by the suggestion of a possible Anglo-American rift just at the moment when she hopes to bring maximum British influence to bear on President Reagan. She now has the chance to talk to him before he drafts his State of the Union address to Congress.

She flew out of Honolulu yesterday on the longest leg of her round-the-world mission. The Prime Minister will breakfast with Vice-President Bush and lunch with President Reagan.

She has already been greeted twice on American soil—once on the island of Guam and again here in Honolulu. On both occasions there were the traditional garlands of flowers.

Her day had begun with a press conference in Hong Kong where she faced almost the only hostile audience she had encountered since leaving London last Monday.



Marshal Ustinov: first civilian to be Defence Minister

Ustinov's death breaks links with Stalin era

FOR THE Soviet leadership, the death of the Defence Minister, Marshal Dmitri Ustinov, yesterday represents a further significant break with the Stalin era.

Recent deaths mean that only Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, and Mr Nikolai Baibakov, head of the Planning Commission, now remain active from the team which was close to Stalin at the height of the last war.

Marshal Ustinov was 76 and had been defence minister since 1976. He became People's Commissar (later Minister) for Armaments in 1941 when he was aged only 32. In 1941, the German army reached the outskirts of Moscow and Ustinov's first task was to help to provide anti-tank defences around the city and equipment for the counter-attack which was to drive the Germans back.

Thus, having joined the Kremlin leadership at its lowest ebb, he has now left it as a world superpower arguing on equal terms with the US and armed with a military machine of unprecedented sophistication. For well over 40 years, his career barely faltered, and he remained throughout, one of the least known, but most influential — and most heavily decorated — members of the hierarchy.

For the most part, his career was spent at the top of what is loosely called the military-industrial complex, with responsibility of the production of conventional and advanced weapons as well as large parts of the space programme. Since defence has always been a first priority in national economic planning, his departmental claims have also impinged on the everyday lives of all Soviet citizens.

In policy making, his most influential period was undoubtedly the second half of the tenure of Mr Yuri Andropov, when the latter was incapacitated through illness. Marshal Ustinov had proposed Mr Andropov for the top job and it is generally agreed, stood in for him for that seven-month period until last February. Foreign policy took on an unusually aggressive stance against the Americans with him at the helm.

During his time as Defence Minister, there were several significant reshuffles of senior personnel, often apparently aimed at the removal of known hawks from positions of direct influence. Marshal Ustinov had himself become minister — the first civilian in the post since the Stalin era — in preference to the much younger candidate of the time, Marshal Viktor Kulikov.

Marshal Ustinov himself seems to have had humble enough beginnings, and was born into the family of "a worker" in 1908, in Kuibyshev, 1,000 miles east of Moscow.

He became a design engineer and later director of the Bolshevik plant in Leningrad, where caught Stalin's eye and was appointed People's Commissar for Armaments at the beginning of the most critical phase of the Second World War. In 1944, he was with Stalin at the Yalta summit with Winston Churchill.

His political career advanced when he joined the Central Committee in 1952. In 1965, after the takeover by Mr Leonid Brezhnev, he became a candidate member of the Politburo, and Central Committee secretary with special responsibility for defence industries. Two years later, he was somewhat surprisingly beaten by Marshal Andrei Grechko to the then vacant post of Defence Minister.

However, in April, 1976, Marshal Grechko died and Marshal Ustinov, just a month after joining the Politburo as a full member—with the rank of army General—became Minister. He was the first civilian to be appointed since Leon Trotsky — though Marshal Nikolai Bulganin had held the post briefly while a political functionary in the mid-1950s.

A few weeks after becoming Defence Minister, Ustinov was made a Marshal of the Soviet Union, the country's highest military rank. He frequently led delegations to other Communist countries.

Politburo loses 'moderate voice'

By Michael Simmons

The death of Marshal Dmitri Ustinov, the civilian who became Soviet Defence Minister, removes from the policy-making Politburo a voice of clear authority which, even in times of cold war, had some surprising things to say. In some respects it was a voice of moderation and will be difficult to replace.

Since he became ill in September, the moves to find a successor will already have been made. The funeral procession through Red Square at the beginning of next week will clearly underline the pecking order of the generals who have surrounded him in recent years. However, the job could go to a civilian and Mr Grigory Romanov has been named chairman of the funeral commission.

When his predecessor, Marshal Andrei Grechko, died in April, 1976, it was almost certain that Ustinov would take over. He had become a full member of the Politburo a month earlier and was, anyway, the front runner because, although he had lost out when the post was vacant some years earlier, he had remained extraordinarily close to the policy-making machine.

This time round, it says much about the unassailability of his position — as well as the general secretiveness of the Kremlin decision-making process — that there is a handful of contestants from which the next defence minister could emerge.

On paper, the man most likely to succeed is 73-year-old Marshal Sergei Sokolov, who has been a deputy defence minister since 1967. He took the sick Ustinov's place on the Lenin Mausoleum for the Revolution celebrations last month and made a short speech, blaming the US and Nato for "aggressive actions" which "preclude a lessening of the threat of war" and reiterating that the Russians would do nothing to impede their own or their allies' security.

Another contender for the top job, thwarted in his time by Ustinov himself, is Marshal Viktor Kulikov, also a deputy defence minister and for nearly eight years Commander-in-Chief of the Warsaw Pact. He is still in his early 60s and it was perhaps his comparative youth that prevented him from becoming minister in1976.

The third contender and third deputy minister at the time of Ustinov's death is the relatively new Chief of Staff, Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev. He is also several years younger than the man he would replace and is believed to belong to the better educated, more technocratic elite of the Soviet armed forces.

A non-military man now in the Politburo, and thought to have aspirations as well as the potential to become minister, is Romanov. His present responsibilities in the Politburo secretariat include supervision of the defence industries, which means that he will have an important say in who follows.

But he is also a possible successor to the top job of all — that of following President Chernenko. If Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, who has been feted in Britain this week as the notional heir apparent, does not follow Mr Chernenko, it could well be Romanov who does.

The late Yuri Andropov, whose name is remembered in the Soviet Union with reverence although he held power for so short a time, worked closely with Ustinov. In the uncertain period which immediately preceded the death of President Brezhnev, towards the end of 1982, Andropov sought a close alliance with Ustinov to keep out the conservative Chernenko.

That time round they won. When Andropov died, Ustinov seemingly had no allies of comparable closeness and Chernenko was able to move in. Now that Ustinov has gone, a vacuum has occurred in the Politburo.

There will clearly be ramifications for Soviet foreign policy and, therefore, for the balance of East-West relations. When the Chief-of-Staff, Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, wrote an article three years ago which suggested that nuclear war would be "the decisive clash between two antagonistic social systems," it was Ustinov who told the world that the wind was not all blowing in that direction.

He wrote by way of reply: "Could anyone in his right mind speak seriously of any kind of limited nuclear war? Only completely irresponsible people could maintain that a nuclear war may be made to follow rules adopted beforehand with nuclear missiles exploding 'in a gentlemanly manner' over strictly designated targets, sparing the population."





Grigory Romanov (top) may be next in line. Ustinov replaced Nikolai Ogarkov (above)

US and Moscow in joint comet probe

From Harold Jackson in Washington

American and Soviet scientists, ignoring the Star Wars rhetoric of their political leaders, have spent several years engaged in behind-the-scenes joint space projects.

Their cooperation has only just been revealed with the announcement by the University of Chicago that it has a major experiment on board the Soviet Vega 1 spacecraft launched a week ago.

The vehicle is designed to intercept Halley's Comet in 1986 and, as an insurance measure, a duplicate version of the Chicago University cosmic dust collector was launched by the Russians yesterday.

The quiet scientific cooperation between the two sides has not been without its political hazards. The director of the University of Arizona's lunar and planetary laboratory, Professor Eugene Levy, said that both American and Soviet researchers had been "obliged to work under the table." In some cases they had used the Max Planck Institute in West Germany as an intermediary, to avoid calling undue attention to their joint work.

Professor John Simpson, of Chicago, who designed the apparatus on board Vega 1, said that he himself had worked through the West Germans because neither he nor his Soviet collaborators had been sure what would be acceptable to their governments.

Once the nature of the cooperative effort became known, however, there had been official support. Professor Simpson had originally hoped to put his cosmic dust experiment on board the European space agency's Giotto vehicle, also being used to explore the nature of Halley's Comet. When it became known that his proposal was too late, the Russians invited him to use their vehicle.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Washington had already failed to persuade Congress to give it money for its own Halley's Comet probe and it then decided to finance Professor Simpson's work so that there would be at least one American experiment in the international study of the comet.

Professor Simpson commented in disclosing the joint venture: "This opportunity seemed important, not only for its scientific value but also as a demonstration of the cooperative, peaceful space exploration which can be achieved between our two countries."

Professor Thomas Donahue, of Michigan University, who leads the space section of the American National Academy of Sciences, said that there are "a lot of information discussions" now under way between US and Soviet scientists and that the State Department had shown interest in expanding the relationship.

It has also emerged that American space experts supplied radar mapping information to the Russians during the preparation of the Soviet Venus landing experiment. The American involvement in the Vega mission also went well beyond Professor Simpson's cosmic dust collector.



Mr Gorbachev (left) and his wife, Raisa, set off for Moscow after learning of the Soviet defence minister's death

New hope of Sino-Soviet trade link

By John Gittings

The most senior Soviet visitor to China for many years, Mr Ivan Arkhipov, a deputy premier, arrived in Peking yesterday promising to take Sino-Soviet relations a big step forward.

Mr Arkhipov, who is described by Chinese leaders as an old friend, has brought a high-level Soviet team to discuss reviving economic links which were severed in 1960 by Mr Khruschev.

He said at Peking airport postponed once and dealing that there was now a "positive trend" in Sino-Soviet relations, which he was convinced would lead to "the further expansion of mutually beneficial, businesslike cooperation" between the two countries.

Diplomats in Peking say that the visit should lead to a five-year trade agreement and the setting up of joint committees on economic, scientific and technical cooperation. But it has to be seen whether the Arkhipov initiative, already with such a critical area for fected by uncertainties after Soviet policy, may yet be affected by the death of the Soviet Defence Minister, Marshal Ustinov.

The official newspaper of the Chinese Communist Party, the People's Daily, has returned to the subject of Karl Marx and his lack of contemporary relevance, seeking to win the argument which it provoked incautiously last week.

In an article taking up nearly a quarter of the front page, it quoted comments by Mao Tsetung, Stalin, Lenin, Engels and Marx himself to show that Marxism was never intended to be an answer to all problems.

Mr Arkhipov is unlikely to raise his eyebrows much because of China's encouragement of market forces, even though Soviet propaganda still accuses the Chinese, rather mechanically, of ideological deviation.

100 die in gas blast

From Martin Walker in Moscow

MORE than 100 people died and scores were injured when a gas explosion demolished a large block of flats on the outskirts of the Georgian capital, Tiflis, on December 2.

The only official announcement about the disaster came with a brief reference to an accident in Izvestia yesterday: and a brief statement by a deputy to the local soviet on Georgian television saying that 35 families had been affected.

But neighbours whose windows were blown out by the explosion said that they had seen more than 100 bodies being removed from the debris.

The explosion apparently happened in the basement of the block of flats after gas engineers had been called to examine reports of a leak. The block is one of the largest in the city.

It is normal policy in the Soviet Union for disasters of this kind to receive only cursory mention in the media and casualty figures are not given. There were reports in Tiflis yesterday that about 200 people might have died.

It was said that one of the victims was a KGB official who had investigated the recent Georgian aeroplane hijack in which a group of young Georgian dissidents boarded an aeroplane disguised as a wedding party and tried to persuade the pilot to take them to Turkey. They were overpowered and have been sentenced to death.

Pope backs strategy on poor

From George Armstrong in Rome

The Pope yesterday defended the Vatican's Doctrinal Office and its "instructions" of last September about liberation theology, saying they were meant "to defend the poor against dangerous and illusory ideological promises of liberation."

Those promises, or proposals, he said, would instead "make them, the poor, and their sufferings, only the pretext for new and sometimes worse oppression."

The Doctrinal Office, formerly known as the Holy Office, had warned the liberation theologians, in particular those in Latin America, against the incompatibility of combining the Gospel with Marxism as they have sometimes been accused of doing.

The Pope was speaking to all the cardinals who head the offices in the Roman Curia during their traditional pre-Christmas audience.

On Thursday, he had presided over a meeting of the same cardinals, who make up what is called his cabinet, and the problem of liberation theology was on the secret agenda, it is said.

The Pope yesterday reminded the cardinals that Christ gave the Church "the deposit of faith" and that all the bishops everywhere must protect it in its entirety "with no part being put to one side, manipulated, or neglected."

The Doctrinal Office had the specific task of safeguarding the truth and he would like to see "a more respectful attitude towards that Office". It and its head, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, have been criticised for wanting a "return to the old values," those prior to the Second Vatican Council. The cardinal has blamed Vatican II for causing disunity in the Church.

The church, the Pope said, had an irrevocable "preferential option for the poor, an option neither exclusive nor excluding". That option was based on the Gospel "not on human sciences or conflicting ideologies."

Debt-ridden farmers strike gold

Valladolid, Spain: Scores of debt-ridden farmers struck gold yesterday when Spain's Christmas lottery, the richest in the world, splashed 12.5 billion pesetas (£62 million) on this northern city and its surroundings.

The jackpot in the El Gordo (the Fat One) lottery was scooped by shareholders, employees and rural clients of Valladolid's Provincial Savings Bank, which gives lottery tickets as gifts each year. — Reuter.

Anti-Nazi printer wins case

From Anna Tomforde in Bonn

A 31-YEAR-OLD print worker who refused to produce brochures advertising books that glorified Hitler's army was wrongfully dismissed from his job, the West German Supreme Labour Court has ruled.

The court, in Kassel, said that any employee had the "right and duty" to refuse work on a publication that "attacked the democratic state and glorified or minimised the bloodstained and unjust Nazi regime."

Mr Dieter Schlichting, a pacifist and conscientious objector, was dismissed in 1981 by a publishing house in north Germany which specialises in books giving an uncritical account of the Wehrmacht.

He argued that the books bearing titles like Why were the best soldiers of World War Two not able to win the war? and Crete — The Victory of the Fearless were depicting war as a "sport-like adventure," something uncompatible with his conscience.

Two lower courts had earlier upheld the dismissal, saying that the "conflict of conscience of an individual has nothing to do with politics."

But according to the Supreme Labour Court's binding verdict, which was published yesterday, employers are obliged to avoid subjecting their staff to an "avoidable conflict of conscience" which in this case had been predictable.

It also said that the brochures had made war seem harmless and glorified acts of war by presenting them as nonviolent adventures. Lawyers said the ruling could have far reaching repercussions in other areas.

The print union, welcoming the decision, said it should encourage employers to take a strong stand against the growth in Neonazi propaganda 40 years after the end of the war.

NEWS IN BRIEF

9 bodies found in mine

US rescue workers recovered nine bodies yesterday from a coal shaft outside Orangeville in Utah where 27 miners, including one woman, were trapped by an underground fire on Thursday.

A spokesman for Emery Mining said that as the rescue teams penetrated deeper into the pit they found the quality of air improving, raising hopes of finding some of the 18 missing miners alive.

The nine bodies were found in the front third of the tunnel. It is not known whether the woman, aged 33, was among them.—Reuter.

100 'executed'

AN IRANIAN opposition group, the Mojarein, claimed that more than 100 political prisoners have been executed by the Tehran regime in recent weeks. The executions took place in Tehran's Evin prison and in the provincial prisons of Tabriz, Roudsar, Masjed-Soleiman, Shiraz, Sardasht and Arak, the Paris-based exiles said.—AP.

Stabber gaoled

THE young wife of the French film scriptwriter and actor, Paul Gegauff, was sentenced yesterday in Norway to seven years' imprisonment for stabbing her husband to death last Christmas. Patricia had been provoked by her husband's "psychological terrorism," the judge said.—Reuter.

Bombers gaoled

FIVE Armenians, charged with complicity in the July 1983 bombing at Orly airport, were sentenced yesterday in Creteil to terms ranging from two to four years in prison. The bomb killed eight people and wounded more than 50.—AP.

Trial delayed

A LAGOS court yesterday adjourned to the New Year further hearing for two British aircraft engineers charged with conspiracy to steal a plane from Nigeria. Mr Kenneth Clark and Mr Angus Patterson have been in prison since May. — Reuter.

Unesco warned

WEST Germany has warned that its continued membership in Unesco will depend on reforms within the 116-country organisation, Bonn officials said yesterday. The warning was made in a letter sent this week to Unesco's general secretary, Mr Anadou M'Bow. — AP.

Agca appeals

THE Turk serving a life term for shooting the Pope, Mehmet Ali Agca, asked Italy to grant him a pardon in an interview published yesterday in the Catholic weekly, Il Sabato. He based the request on his collaboration with Italian justice "without preconditions." — Reuter.

Food pledged

THE US has pledged $7 million worth of extra food aid to Mozambique, southern Africa's hardest-hit drought victim, in an agreement signed on Thursday. The aid consists of 5,640 tons of butter, margarine, cheese and powdered milk.—AP.

Mengistu visits

THE Ethiopian leader, Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu, arrived in Sofia yesterday for talks with Bulgarian officials. Earlier in the day, he signed an agreement with East Germany linking the two countries's Communist parties. — Reuter.

Tree saving

A SOVIET paper yesterday urged Russians to decorate bunches of twigs this Christmas because pine forests are dying out. Insufficient trees have been planted to replace the 50 million firs that are cut down each December.—Reuter.

China N-blast

SWEDEN yesterday reported that China detonated a relatively weak underground nuclear device earlier this week at its Lop Nor testing ground in Sinkiang province.—Reuter.

Arsonists hit

TWO US army lorries were burnt out yesterday in a fire attack at a Frankfurt army base here, causing damage estimated at 48,400. The cabins of both lorries were sprayed with inflammable liquid.—Reuter.

Moscow launch

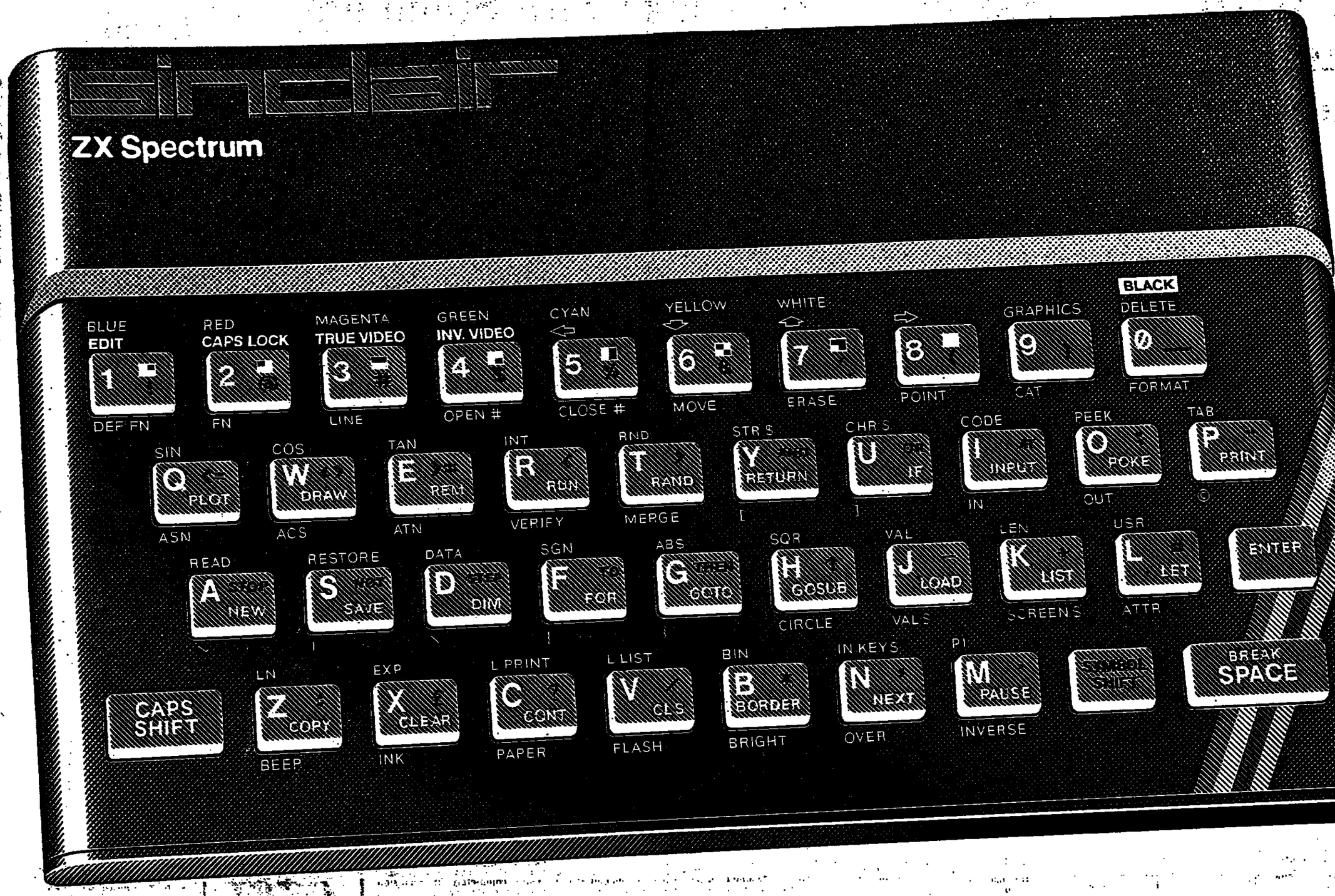
THE Soviet Union yesterday launched the second of two dual-purpose unmanned space probes. Vega-1 and 2 will study Venus and observe Halley's comet as it approaches the solar system.—Reuter.

Lawford in coma

THE actor, Peter Lawford remained in a coma at Cedars-Sinai medical centre in Los Angeles. Telephone calls of concern were coming in from his fans around the world, officials said.—AP.

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Surveys in homelands show strong backing for Mandela

ANC wins support in poll of black students

From Barry Streek in Cape Town

Strong support for the banned African National Congress (ANC) and its gaoled leader, Dr Nelson Mandela, has been found in a survey of students at five homelands universities in South Africa, four of them in independent homelands.

The backing for the ANC by the students is higher than that given by urban black people in Johannesbrug, Cape Town and Durban in a poll in 1981.

These findings, which demonstrate black support for the ANC in the rural areas as well as that already found in the urban areas, comes at a time when there are growing signs that whites are beginning to accept the need to talk to the ANC.

Yesterday, the black weekly newspaper, City Press, reported that four unnamed nationalist MPs would visit Lusaka, the Zambian capital, in January for talks with the ANC. The report could not be officially confirmed.

But it follows reports of a recent visit to the ANC in Zambia by Mr Piet Muler, a senior journalist on Beeld, a Nationist-supporting daily newspaper in the Nasionale Pers Group, which has close ties with President Botha.

Afterwards, the Beeld called editorially for talks between the ANC and the Government. This call was backed by Dr Wimpie De Klerk, editor of Rapport, the Afrikaans Sunday newspaper. Dr De Klerk is the brother of Mr F. W. De Klerk, a senior member of the cabinet and Transvaal leader of the National Party.

In another survey, also released yesterday, 42.9 per cent of white people interviewed came out in favour of talks with the ANC. Although 43.9 per cent were opposed to talks with the ANC, the size of the support for direct negotiations has surprised observers.

The survey shows that a significant number of whites now accept that direct negotiations with the ANC are necessary — something the Government has rejected unless the exiled organisation stops its campaign of violence.

The extent of black support for the ANC was underlined in the survey of students at the universities of Transkei (Unitra), Bophuthatswana (Unibo), Venda (Univen), Fort Hare and Qwaqwa (Uniqwa).

The survey, conducted over three years by Professor Gerhard Totemeyer, expelled from Unitra earlier this year and now a visiting professor at the University of Cape Town, found that 71 per cent of the students polled at Unitra believed the ANC was the movement or political party they supported or sympathised with most.

At Unibo, 70 per cent supported this, at Univen 44 per cent and at Both Uniqwa and Fort Hare 59 per cent.

Jonathan Steele adds: The Lesotho government has protested to South Africa about the beating and detention of a medical student on his way home from Cuba Mr Tumelo Rankhelpe was wrongly put on a South African Airways plane in Lisbon on November 10.

He had asked to be booked on another plane and did not notice until he had boarded the flight that it was South African. Before take-off he was forced to hand over his passport.

On arrival in Johannesburg he was held for 24 hours and questioned about alleged links between the Lesotho government and the ANC. He says he was spat at in the face and beaten with a revolver butt. Lesotho refuses to sign a non-aggression pact with South Africa

Meanwhile, the Swaziland Government has ordered the ANC representative in the country, Mr Bafana Duma, to leave immediately.



THE booby-trapped car that exploded in Rae al Mein, Lebanon, yesterday, killing four people and injuring 35. The car was packed with TNT.

Iraqis attack Gulf tanker

MANAMA, Bahrain: Iraq announced yesterday that its jet fighters raided two "large naval targets" in continuation of its blockade on Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal, and shipping circles reported that a Norwegian-owned supertanker was ablaze in the northern Gulf.

Sources who monitor traffic movement in the Gulf said the Thorshavet was struck by an Exocet missile.

They said the vessel had lifted a full load of Iranian crude oil at the Kharg terminal and was almost out of the Iraqi-declared war exclusion zone when it was attacked.

The sources said a fire broke out and the crew abandoned ship.

The Iraqi announcement, made by a military spokesman over the state television in Baghdad, said the warplanes "scored direct hits" on two targets.

Lloyds shipping intelligence unit in London says that 61 tankers and freighters have been damaged in the tanker war since January.

Three tankers and one freighter carrying agricultural products for Kuwait have been damaged by Iraq in the latest outburst.—AP.

Death threat to Gandhi

NEW DELHI: A massacre was threatened for a meeting addressed by the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, last night and maximum security was provided for him on the latest leg of his election campaign, police said.

But there were no reports of trouble at the meeting, in the southern city of Bangalore.

Earlier, the city's police commissioner was quoted by the Press Trust of India (PTI) as saying that he was imposing the tightest security. This followed letters received by two local newspapers telling them to send photographers to record one of the world's worst massacres.

The letters were in envelopes bearing the name, Khalistan Liberation Organisation, PTI said. Khalistan is the name of the Sikh nation that extremists are seeking to establish in Punjab state.

Mr Gandhi's mother and predecessor as Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, was killed by two of her Sikh bodyguards on October 31.

The Bangalore letters to the English-language papers spoke of the massacre as planned for "the 21st night public meeting." PTI said.

The agency said police were not taking any chances over the letters, which arrived three days before polling in India's general election.

Campaigning yesterday in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, Mr Gandhi was flanked by two plainclothes security men while hundreds of police and commandos patrolled his meeting grounds.

In New Delhi, the leaders of six opposition parties launched a joint appeal for the defeat of Mr Gandhi, who is heavily favoured by opinion polls to win the election.

Meanwhile thousands of troops and police were put on alert across India yesterday to protect voters from intimidation or violence during the election, officials said.

Alienated Singapore workers may dent Lee's hope of complete election victory

From Nicholas Cumming-Bruce in Singapore

The Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, leads Singaporeans to the polls today, certain of overall victory but not so sure that his People's Action Party will win every seat in Parliament, as it had in the past four elections.

In what he has said will be his last election as prime minister, Mr Lee wants a clean sweep as a gesture of confidence in his government's policies and the new generation of leaders whom he has groomed to take them on in the years ahead.

He also wants it to signal to foreign investors "that Singapore can be as stable and secure (as in the past) and we shall surge into a second era of high-tech growth."

The PAP is already only 10 seats short of a simple majority since Mr Lee and 29 other PAP candidates were returned unopposed. But there has been what one observer described as "a groundswell of dissatisfaction" among many of Singapore's prospering executives as well as workers and this could send two or three of the 51 opposition candidates into Parliament.

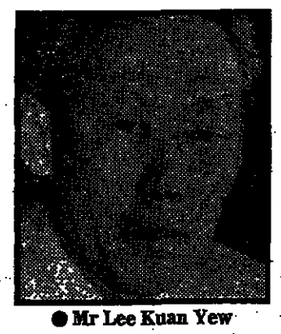
PAP has issued no formal election manifesto, but has campaigned with characteristic overkill, exploiting all the resources of an incumbent government and the totally pliant media.

The election takes place after several months celebrating 25 years of development, promoted on radio and television programmes and by a national exhibition. The party also issued an Agenda for Action in 1999, promising Singaporeans a standard of living equal to Switzerlands today, home ownership for all and elaborate urban development schemes.

Sensing a growing hunger among the younger generation for soemthing more than materialism, PAP candidates, among them Mr Lee's son, Hsien Loong, have even been dangling the hitherto improbable idea of making Singapore a fun place to live in.

Some analysts are predicting that the party will emerge with a clean sweep, but there are factors that seem certain to push more votes than before to the opposition. Not least is a growing fatigue with the government's relentless social engineering and what many see as its arrogant intrusion into every aspect of life.

Mr Lee (right): promise of future prosperity may outweigh his other failings



● Mr Lee Kuan Yew

and Mr Chiam See Tong, leader of the Singapore Democ- A government proposal to defer from 55 to 60 the age at which people can redeem their compulsory payments to the government's Central Provident Fund has disturbed many people.

Priority access to the best schools for children of graduate parents on the strength of Mr Lee's fascination with genes — graduates' children will supposedly be more intelligent than those of non-graduates — has been resented, as has the streaming of children in primary schools.

Opposition candidates have focused their campaigns on thes issues rather than offering any alternative programmes, but how effectively they have done so will emerge only in tomorrow's results.

Mr Joshua Jeyaretnam, the sole opposition MP and the leader of the Workers' Party, cratic Party, face tough competition from two of the PAP's abler candidates who have enjoyed strong support from their party.

Mr Jeyaretnam's dogged questioning of government policy has earned him the contempt and anger of Mr Lee but also won him considerable public affection. His speeches are rambling and diffuse but his criticisms of the press as "a scandal" and his attacks on social issues have been sure winners.

Mr Lee has scathingly dismissed opposition leaders as "ambiguous shadowy figures, improbable representatives of freedom and democracy, and unlikely champions of your stability, your security, and your prosperity."

"People love to hear anti-PAP sentiments, it's entertainment," one analyst observed. "But there is a pragmatic streak in voters and they think the PAP will deliver the life they like even if they don't like the way it goes about it."

Just in case that streak of realism was to desert them at the polls Mr Lee has warned that in any constituency which returns an opposition candidate government will suspend housing and public works developments.

"The PAP fights to win," he explained somewhat superfluously, "voters have got to learn to live with the results of their decision."

Vietnam celebrates stymied military

Ho Chi Minh City: Vietnam marks the fortieth anniversary today of the founding of its army, the world's third largest, which is still bogged down after six years of fighting small guerrilla bands in Kampuchea.

Founded with a handful of men equipped with bamboo spears and flintlocks, the army has since defeated the French, humbled the Americans, forged the reunification of North and South Vietnam, and held off a Chinese border offensive in 1979.

Western military experts estimate that Vietnam has well over three million men and women under arms out of a population of 57 million and, after China and the Soviet Union, possesses the world's third largest conventional force.

Yet Vietnam's estimated 160,000 to 180,000 troops in Kampuchea, backed by artillery and tanks, are being held to a stalemate by 60,000 guerrillas.

"Never before has our people had such a strong army as today," the Communist Party chief, Le Duan, said after Vietnamese troops in a lightning move toppled the Peking-backed Khmer Rouge government in Kampuchea in January, 1979.

Six years later the statement appears to be a hollow boast. For a country as poor as Vietnam, the large army is a heavy drain on the economy. But officials claim that economising is a small price to pay for security.

Most of the crack units are on permanent alert along the border with China. In addition to its "volunteers" in Kampuchea, Hanoi has about 50,000 others in Laos.

Officials in Ho Chi Minh City, which as Saigon was capital of South Vietnam until the Communist takeover in 1975, said no military parades were planned for Army Day.

Apart from a few banners and posters along the streets extolling the heroism of the armed forces, there are no signs that today will be different from any other day.

Correspondents allowed to visit a tank training unit near Bien Hoa airfield saw raw recruits being trained in armoured tactics with the use of three Russian T-54 tanks and eight captured US M-113 Armoured Personnel Carriers.

Overhead, four Russian MiG-21s were going through their paces.

The men in their ill-fitting uniforms practised quick reaction exercises while glued to their pith helmets was a strip of paper inscribed with the words "we are determined to achieve the highest success to welcome Army Day."

Captain Le Viet Thuat, 34-year-old commander of the tank unit, told reporters that his unit had seen action in Kampuchea and returned to Vietnam last year. He declined to say how long the unit was in Kampuchea or if it had any Russian advisers.

But a woman military doctor at Ben Tre in the Mekong Delta said that Vietnamese troops were suffering more casualties now than two years ago when she first reported for duty at a hospital in Kandal province, adjoining Vietnam.

Asked if the increase in casualties indicated a deterioration of the military situation she said it was more dangerous two years ago. "But there are more casualties now because the enemy has more modern weapons." — Reuter.

Goukouni rejects French observers

Paris: Chad's pro-Libyan rebel leader, Mr Goukouni Oueddei, has said he will refuse to allow French military observers to set foot in his northern Chad power base to check on a possible Libyan military presence there.

In an interview with foreign journalists published in the French daily Liberation yesterday: Mr Goukouni said: "No French officer will set foot in this part of Chad, except by force."

The French Defence Minister, Mr Charles Hernu, said that French and Greek military officers, already in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, planned to travel south to monitor a Libyan troop pull-back from the northern deserts of Chad.

"The Greeks can come, along with Syrians, Libyans, or other neutral nations but France has not adopted a neutral stand," former President Goukouni said at his military headquarters in the northern oasis of Faya-Largeau.

France sent 3,500 troops to Chad last year to prop up President Hissene Habre's army against an attack from Mr Goukouni's rebels, backed by up to 5,000 Libyan troops.

France and Libya agreed last September to end foreign intervention in Chad through a joint pullout.

Peking army chief urges spending cut

Peking: A senior military official complained in a report published yesterday that China's army does not contribute enough to the economy, restricts civilian use of its vast facilities, wastes resources, and saps the state budget.

Mr Yu Qiuli, deputy secretary general of the Central military Commission and political director of the People's Liberation Army, said the armed forces will have to spend less money, but did not say how much.

His complaint was the latest in a series of criticisms directed at the army, which has played a powerful role in Chinese life since the Communist Party took power 35 years ago.

With its own factories, farms, residence compounds and schools, the army is like a separate society in the country of 1.03 billion people.

Mr Yu's speech at an 11-day conference on army logistics work was reported in Friday's Liberation Army Daily (Jiefang Jun Ribao). The newspaper is not available to foreigners, but portions of the article were carried by Xinhur, the official news agency.

"The army," he stressed, "should participate in the construction of the country's key projects," the report said. "This could benefit the army as well as civilians."

It quoted Mr Yu as saying that the army "must reduce its expenditure to lighten the financial burdens of the state. To accomplish this, it has to avoid waste and practice economy."

China's 1984 budget calls for a defence allocation of $6.4 billion out of total expenditures of $49 billion.

Mr Yu was quoted as suggesting "the army open some of its harbours, airfields, extra barracks, warehouses, and hospitals to civilians, and use its transport vehicles and construction forces to help local construction."

Getting the military into more civilian work has been a recent theme in the state-run press. On November 8 the party newspaper People's Daily said civilian aircraft are using 40 military airports.

Mr Deng Xiaping, chairman of the military commissions of both the government and the party, suggested at a military seminar in Peking on November 1 that the air force should share its planes and pilots with Cina's overburdened civil aviation industry. — AP

Thatcher fails to impress Hong Kong

Hong Kong: The Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, said yesterday that the agreement handing Hong Kong to China in 1997 was better than no deal at all, but her visit did little to increase public confidence.

Mrs Thatcher told a news conference that the Sino-British pact she signed in Peking on Wednesday after two years of often difficult negotiations would ensure the stability and prosperity the territory well into the next century.

She said: "(The agreement) assures the continuation of Hong Kong as a free-trading, capitalist society for a very long time to come. This means that Hong Kong can plan long-term with confidence."

Mrs Thatcher brushed aside a question about whether it was morally defensible to deliver Hong Kong people "into the hands of a Communist dictatorship."

She retorted: "What do you think would have happened if we had not attempted to get an agreement? In 1997, 92 per cent of the territory would have reverted to China."

But she said that Britain and China were aware of anxiety in the territory over some parts of the accord.

Chief among them are the forming of a joint liaison group to oversee the implementation of the agreement.

Mrs Thatcher caused confusion among the colony's top officials by saying that the Governor, Sir Edward Youde, would be a member of the liaison group.

Although immediately corrected by Sir Edward, who said that the composition of the group has not been decided, Mrs Thatcher insisted that she would be "absolutely astonished if the governor is not on it."

She said that the group's discussions would be confidential like the Sino-British negotiations leading up to the agreement. Her assurance that the Hong Kong government and the existing appointed and elected representatives would keep the people in touch did little to allay fears that the public will be kept in the dark.

For most Hong Kong people, the transition to 1997 has begun and Mrs Thatcher's visit was a formality. Many have turned their attention to the formation of the joint liaison group and, more importantly, the drafting of the law which will serve as the future mini-constitution of the Hong kong special administrative region.—Reuter.

Sri Lanka poll likely on ethnic unrest

Colombo: President Junius Jayewardene yesterday dissolved an all-party conference trying to find ways of solving Sri Lanka's ethnic unrest and hinted he might call a referendum or a general election on the issue.

Mr Jayewardene wound up the conference saying the Government would have to make the final decision on the best way of resolving the ethnic issue and introduce laws in parliament. He said the supreme court would then have to decide whether the proposals contravened the constitution.

Laws that do not conform to the constitution have to be referred to a referendum. The president has powers to call a referendum or a general election.

The conference of delegates from political parties, ethnic and religious groups, called by Mr Jayewardene after more than 400 violent deaths last year, opened 11 months ago to find ways of ending tension between the island's Sinhalese and Tamils.

Tamils, who form 2.5 million of the island's 15 million population, accuse the government of discriminating against them and are demanding a separate state.

On Thursday night parliament endorsed a presidential order extending a nationwide state of emergency for a further month. The emergency, first declared in May last year, gives the security forces additional powers against Tamil guerrillas.

The National Security Minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, told parliament the security forces and civilian vigilance committees were being strengthened to counter a threat by the guerrillas to declare an independent Tamil state on January 14.—Reuter.

Now flies hit Bhopal

BHOPAL, INDIA: Swarms of flies lured by the carcases of dead livestock threatened Bhopal yesterday as scientists neutralised the last of the lethal gas that killed more than 2,500 people.

City officials said hordes of blue flies had descended on Bhanpura, four miles south of the city, where more than 1,000 animals killed by the poison gas leak on December 3 were buried.

The flies were now being attracted to densely populated areas of Bhopal, an official said. "We are doing our best to control the threat," he said.

An official spokesman told reporters that 22 tonnes of methyl isocyanate gas had so far been converted into pesticide. The remaining 1.2 tonnes, stored in stainless steel drums, was being treated yesterday.

He said this would complete the conversion operation.

In Denver, Colorado, an American doctor said yesterday that most survivors of the disaster were unlikely to suffer permanent damage more serious than asthma.

Dr Thomas Petty spent three days in Bhopal at Union Carbide's expense.—Reuter/AP.



The Price of a Life

Ethiopia is only the tip of the African famine iceberg. Drought is moving across Africa like the plague, destroying everything in its path — crops, livestock and thousands of people, mainly children. 24 countries are in dire need. Please help us to help the innocent in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

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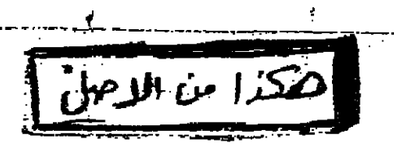
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هكذا من الاصل

Peter Mullen discovers that the swaddling clothes were actually one of C & A's discontinued lines.

Do you still really believe the Christmas story, bishop?

PERPLEXED by much of the radical, modern interpretation of the Bible, I paused on my way to buy the turkey to call on Bishop Ffaste-Talker and gain some new insight into the Christmas Story. The Bishop was a very thin, wiry man and he pranced nervously about the room as if he were performing a conjuring trick with his bones. He was chewing rapidly and rattling a bag of sweets.

"Merry Christmas, Bishop."

"Oh, yes. Christmas — well, you're a bit early actually: I mean, the real date of Christmas as discovered by modern research is June 3. Have some humbug."

"Do you believe the Christmas Story, Bishop?"

He became very animated, gesticulating like a traffic cop. "Believe it? Oh yes. I mean, no — certainly, probably. It all rather depends what you mean by believe. If you mean 'believe' in the sense of accepting it as true, well, no modern scholar would actually use 'believe' in that sense. If you mean, on the other hand, being prepared to doubt every word of it in public, on TV, for all the twelve days — actually there aren't twelve days you know — of Christmas, then of course in that sense I believe it wholeheartedly, probably. And anyone who says I don't is a liar."

"What about the bit where it says 'A virgin shall be with child'?"

"Does it? Oh yes — this is the use of the word 'virgin' to mean 'married woman with children.' Of course it doesn't mean she shall actually bear the child — I can't bear children myself — but 'be with' the child in the sense of having a social awareness of the fact of children in the contemporary political scenario."

"They shall call his name Emmanuel'?"

A look of comfort and joy spread across his face. "A marvellously exact prophecy of the name of Don Cupitt's college."

"And 'David's town'?"

He blushed. "Well, modesty forbids. . . ."

I asked him about Caesar Augustus's tax on all the world, making it necessary for Joseph to return to Bethlehem with Mary. "Ah, Caesar Augustus! That's an example of what radical theologians call an acrostic. Caesar Augustus. Those first letters: they stand for Chartered Accountant — tax, geddit? Of course, the Regius Professor takes a different line entirely. He reckons it's a coded reference to C&A, the clothiers chain store, who also provided the shining raiment for what I suppose you would call the Transfiguration."

He laughed as he continued the elucidation. "Y'see, that clothing company probably sponsored the gospel writers. St Luke 2:7 gives us the hint — there's an 'a' missing from 'manger'. It should read 'manager'."

He offered me more humbug from his seemingly inexhaustible bag. "And you see, the whole mythological narrative reveals to the careful reader the sectarian rivalry of early Christian tailors: gentile versus Jew, C&A versus Marks and Spencer. The 'swaddling clothes' were a discontinued line."

He broke off to sign a few plain white sheets of paper which he then folded. "My Christmas cards," he smiled, and a lock of white hair fell across his forehead. He did remind me of the Old Man in the Sky.

I looked at his folded pile of signed papers. "But they're all blank". I said. "Christmas cards usually have pictures on them."

"But these are Radical Christmas Cards. The recipients draw their own pictures on them. These are for agnostics and I can't insult their critical creativity by sending them pictures already painted: that would be mere prejudice."

But I noticed there were a few with a message inside: "He came down to earth from heaven" crossed out and scrawled under it the words "He/she entered our situation of political alienation and anomie."

"What about the shepherds, the angel?"

Bishop Ffaste-Talker beamed a seraphic beam. He could be very patient with simpletons. "Ah, the angel — an intertextual intrusion deauthenticising the pericope. The Angel — probably the name of the inn where there was no room. 'The heavenly host' would be the landlord who obviously was in the habit of serving drinks after time — the shepherds arrived 'by night' as it says. A few of those shepherds probably drank a Christmassy drop too much — 'Glory to God in the highest,' eh?"

"But 'the heavenly host' surely means a great crowd of —"

The Bishop, however, was in full flow. "A great crowd? Yea, sure. 'The Angel' was the most popular pub in Bethlehem — though it probably wasn't Bethlehem at all — full every night. The heavenly host raking it in — he was made, man!"

"And the three Kings?"

For the first time that afternoon his face clouded. "I'm afraid that's a piece of sexual and racial chauvinism."

"Three Queens, then?"

"They could have been Queens. St Paul hadn't yet got going on his gay-bashing all over the night clubs in Corinth. But I favour Professor Al Thusser's translation which sees 'Three Kings' as a structural metaphor for the three main parties in the prevailing Liberal Democracy."

"What about 'King of Angels'?"

The Bishop cheered up again. "Ah, that's a reference to Charlie King, the shop steward and dominoes champion in 'The Angel'!"

"And the 'wise men from the east' are Lenin, Mao, and Ho Chi Minh, I suppose?"

"You're getting the idea,' he said. "Note their connection with the star in the east. . . ."

"The Morning Star?"

"Precisely! The guidance given in the editorial columns fits them up with the appropriate consciousness and praxis to fox that old revisionist Herod."

"And the gold, frankincense, and myrrh are the treasures of capitalism redistributed according to true Socialist principles?"

"Or possibly a phonic corruption of an old EEC motto 'Hold! Brandt is sense and merge.'"

There was a long silence. At last Bishop Ffaste-Talker said, "Excuse me, will you? I have to go to the local feminists' Anti-mistletoe Rally." And he went.

I looked in the bag but the Bishop had no humbug left.



picture of Tarrant Bailey Jnr by Don McPhee.

If a man play a better banjo or compose a better tune than his neighbour, though he build his house in the woods, the Guardian will seek a path to his door . . . Erlend Clouston meets the greatest banjo player alive.

A concerto on a corrugated iron roof

'TWAS ever thus. Sixty years ago you were making your professional debut at the Wigmore Hall. Now your name draws the coolest of responses at the Wagon and Horses, 50 yards from your front door.

"Can't 'elp yer, luv," said the blousey barmaid, fumbling in her glasses with the dishcloth, "Maybe Brian'll know. Brian, d'ye know 'im 'at plays banjo up hill?" But Brian shakes his red cheeks into his beer mug. "Ask Arthur," he growls, "Arthur, d'ye know 'im 'at plays banjo up *hill*?"

Arthur reflects. "No." But then later he thinks maybe he *has* heard 'im playing 'is banjo 'ere one time. "Requests," he explains. The mind gently boggles. The brash old Wagon and Horses is not spiritually a banjoey pub. Friday night is disco night, with North and South last week, and Tamarisk next.

Up Grimshaw Lane the Lightning Banjoist, alias Tarrant Bailey, is waiting. He is an erect, large-eyed old man, handy with the bottle opener. "Here's a beer — d'ye mind pouring? Habit I got out of in Tenerife where we drank wine." It was in Tenerife that Mr Bailey hit on the idea of doing banjo lessons by post, that is when he wasn't importing goldfish from Yorkshire.

He went to Tenerife after working on the Liverpool docks, after a nervous breakdown, after years of fame and fortune in shows like Harry Pepper's Kentucky Minstrels, after, well, you've got the idea. Mr Bailey is a Character — one might say a typical Grassroots Character. He is Northern, pugnacious, wreathed in tobacco smoke and a sense of injustice. He is a retailer of fantastic anecdotes, most of which he forbids this journalist to use.

"I don't think that would interest your readers, do you?" Much of the interview is spent with 76-year-old Mr Bailey on his hands and knees, rifling through documentary evidence of anecdotes that the journalist can use.

But why have we searched out Mr Bailey's house in Bollington, Cheshire? Largely because Mr Bailey is a robust relic of a vanished age. He is a Banjo King, and he is now pressing into my hand a cassette wrapped in orange paper on which is printed Tarrant Bailey — The Old And The New. There is also a picture of Tarrant Bailey as he was 40 years ago, looking smugly at a four finger chord half way up the neck of a machine that is half frying pan, half Cadillac.

Mr Bailey has produced the tape himself with the object, first, of making himself some money, second, of preserving his name, and third, of reminding people of the banjo's possibilities as a serious musical instrument. Good luck to him with the first two, but project number three could be a tall order. To most people the banjo sounds irredeemably like someone tap-dancing with spikes on a corrugated iron roof. Why, I asked with circumspection, does one instinctively want to laugh when one sees a banjo?

"First of all," booms Mr Bailey, loosening his tie, "you were taught that it was a nigger instrument. Then you were taught that it was played by people out West with straw sticking out of their mouths."

Mr Bailey then musters some interesting facts. The banjo was once a highly fashionable instrument. Queen Victoria made two of her children learn it. Gershwin wrote a banjo part for his Rhapsody In Blue. Since Gershwin, no real composer has had the wit to appreciate that "from the pizzicato point of view, one banjo is worth ten fiddles."

Not a man to go in with one boot when two will do, Mr Bailey adds darkly: "It is easier to play a violin badly than a banjo well."

So who do we blame for this state of affairs?

"You people. Or commercial interests. Or money." Or Segovia, as it turns out. The year the Lightning Banjoist was making his debut at the Wigmore Hall, the first Segovia guitar records were reaching England. That must have been like qualifying as an airship pilot on the day the R101 crashed. "In 1924 you could have got any guitar in a junk shop for ten bob. Afterwards, well. . . ."

The decline in the banjo's purchasing power has been slow but spectacular. Variety Bandbox paid £250 for his band, the Tarrantellas, just after the war. Last year Radio Manchester gave him £5 for a 15 minute interview.

He played me some of his music, or, rather, he accompanied a tape recording of a sparky tune called Jazzbo's Holiday that he had composed in 1927 and recorded in 1933. Mr Bailey had the foresight to commission a Gloucester company to record his radio output, and it was rather an eerie sensation to sit there listening to a young man being dogged by his future. It takes more energy than you might think to play a banjo. Mr Bailey's face quivered with the strain, like a racing driver cornering at high speed.

He stopped and poured himself a sherry, his ear still cocked to the brittle notes being fired at us from half a century ago. "Ah. This is an acoustic recording. Sound rises, you know. My mother was playing the piano and we were way up, as near the ceiling as possible. The sound was caught in a huge funnel. We did this at the time of the Great Wembley Exhibition."

As the evening progresses, it is hard to escape the thought that if Mr Tarrant Bailey were an art object, he would be in the Getty Museum, or at least on the dockside at Southampton, awaiting an export licence. He was announced on Variety Bandbox by Phyllis Calvert. He was the first man to play a guitar on BBC radio. He made a live television broadcast from John Logie Baird's experimental Long Acre television station — and here is the photostat to prove it, the vellum of Mr Bailey's banjo clearly apparent on a screen about the size of a large paperback. His records were given as prizes by the Black Cat cigarette company. His record companies sound like sad trumpet calls from an age of pomp and innocence: Imperial, Rex, Regal, Zonophone, Eclipse.

But Segovia, rock and roll, and a wife who disappeared with their son terminated all contracts. He is well enough off now, but in the fifties he lived through what he terms "extreme poverty." Two years on the Liverpool docks earned him enough to buy his passage to Tenerife ("It seemed like a good place to go") where he lived by his wits and his postal tuition.

He returned to this country seven years ago, but he still has pupils all over the world, he still guarantees that after a course of eight lessons they will be able to play a published banjo solo. Many of his colonial customers are completing a curious kind of circle: a gentleman writes from Adelaide to say how delighted he is to learn that his tutor is the composer of a tune called All's Well: "There was several old 78 records in the house one of which was Alls Well but it got Brocken before I could even remember the name of it. And so for over 20 years the first movement of Alls Well has haunted me, it bouncing around my head."

Mr Bailey has a great many American clients. Here in fact is a photograph of him standing beside a tough looking man in a check shirt who is Roy Bryant, foreman builder on a nuclear power station in Illinois. Mr Bryant has so far received over 350 weekly lessons and compositions from Mr Bailey and invited him across to Illinois for a holiday. He probably needed it. Here is a picture of the colossal house that belongs to the owner of station WCIT in Lima, Ohio. Mr Bailey was offered a job with station WCIT but he was refused a resident's permit.

"I have," Mr Bailey remembers with some gratitude, "been cited in America as being the greatest classic banjo player alive, and I suppose I'm the leading classic banjo composer today."

Could anyone argue with that?

"I've earned it. I made more solo records between 1925 and 1950 than all the other banjo players put together." The greatest composer of all time, he wants to stress, was Joe Morley, a colleague of his in Harry Pepper's Kentucky Minstrels. Morley seems to have been another Character. He started off as a prizefighter and finished up as a musician on the Royal Yacht.

I played Mr Bailey's tape in the car on my way home: no spikes, no corrugated iron roof. My ear had been improved. But interestingly, the tape sounded much better each time I substituted a harpischord for Tarrant Bailey in my mindscape. That is clearly it. What amuses or offends with the banjo is the posture that the (sitting) musician has to to adopt in relation to his spindly instrument. He looks for all the world as if he were plucking a chicken.

If only they could invent a banjo with a wider neck and a bigger body that would mould nobly into the thighs. But that rather takes us back to Segovia, doesn't it?



1910



1944



1984: "in the classical position"

Whether Paul Elliott produces a better pantomime than anyone else is a matter of opinion. That he presents more pantomimes than anyone else is a matter of arithmetic. His total this year, reports Robin Thornber, is 13.

Not an ad-lib in the house

IN the next few weeks around four million paying customers will be making their annual toffee-rustling, lolly-sucking trip to the pantomime. And quite a lot of them will be going to see pantomimes devised and presented by one man — Paul Elliott.

At 43, this former refrigerator salesman from Bournemouth is responsible for 13 pantomimes this year, including one in Canada. Last year it was 15, with one in Zimbabwe. Aladdin, at the Palace Theatre in Manchester, is expected to take £500,000. It had already covered its £400,000 cost when it opened, and they were increasing the run from 57 to 72 performances.

At the other end of the range there's Mother Goose with Brian Cant at the Theatre Royal, Lincoln, where he says he'll be happy if they do £60,000. Panto is budgeted to break even at around 75 per cent of capacity.

His other shows are at Aberdeen, Bath, Bournemouth, Cambridge, Hayes, Lewisham, and Torquay, and he's co-producing at Eastbourne, Stockport and Wimbledon.

Beginning as an amateur actor, Elliott turned pro in repertory on the Isle of Wight, and he's still prepared to stand in if one of his performers can't go on. He thought he wasn't a bad actor, but agents didn't agree — one told him they could be of no use to each other.

He did, however, appear as Michael Bonnett in 39 episodes of Dixon Of Dock Green, and he and Peter Byrne, who played Detective Sergeant Andy Crawford, went into theatrical management as E & B Productions when they thought they could do better than the company they were working for.

Byrne later left the company — although he's directing this year's pantomime at Cambridge — and Elliott went into partnership, for a time, with Duncan Weldon as Triumph Productions. But they too split, as the Triumph tours became classier, and Elliott went solo again as E & B.

As a producer, Elliott has staged over 300 touring shows and 15 West End productions, including Big Bad Mouse and Run For Your Wife (with Ray Cooney). To be fair, he's also produced the UK tour of Children Of A Lesser God, and is currently co-presenting the Leicester Haymarket's Passion Play at Wyndham's Theatre. He has toured to Canada, America, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Zimbabwe, and took The Hollow Crown to Israel, Singapore, India, Nepal and Borneo.

But pantomime, which takes up about half his time and energy, is his first love, from his own childhood experience of Derek Salberg's shows in Bournemouth. "I've waited for years to produce the pantomime in Bournemouth," he says, "and this year they just asked me out of the blue."

I'd caught up with him with a pre-arranged call to his hotel in Toronto, where he was directing Cinderella at Ed Mirvisch's Royal Alexandra Theater. (With a top price of $21.50, they'd taken a $212,000 advance on 11 days' run before touring to Ottawa and Hamilton.)

Elliott writes, or at least devises, all the pantomimes — he once wrote two during a week's holiday in Greece. "I write in great bold strokes," he says; "I have a childhood mentality." Tudor Davies, who's directing the Manchester show, fills in the detail.

The Canadian company, (which includes Geoffrey Hughes, billed as "Eddie Yates from the international television success, Coronation Street"), was having great fun guessing which bits he'd written. They said it shows: "This bit is far too sophisticated for you." But surprisingly — compared with the average panto script's page after page of "Take in own material here" — he won't allow any deviation from the text. Ad-libbing is out. "I always say 'We're doing a musical — it isn't necessary to ad-lib.' " (Big Bad Mouse, which succeeded because Jimmy Edwards and Eric Sykes threw away the script, was different, he says. I hope he can convince Eric Sykes, who's playing in his Dick Whittington at Bath Theatre Royal.)

Elliott himself directs two new pantomimes each year — this year it's Bath and the Canadian one. They then go into store in his fantasy factory in Lincoln, which produces all his props and scenery and houses 4,000 costumes and over 1,000 pairs of shoes, to be brought back to life with another director in another venue.

I can't honestly claim to have derived a great deal of pleasure from those of Paul Elliott's productions that I've seen. But it has to be acknowledged that in the past few years he has led the move away from television-dominated "variety spectaculars" with vestigial storylines, and back to traditional pantomime.



Paul Elliott behind the scenes.

His other achievement has been to pioneer the pantomime across the Atlantic, where it is virtually an unknown form of entertainment. When he first went to Canada they hadn't seen a panto since 1934, and the audience had to be prompted to boo and hiss. The Toronto show is still being sold as "a traditional family musical." It's virgin territory, with a whole new audience for whom the hoary old jokes, preserved in aspic from the variety halls, come over as "across between Tom Stoppard and Franco Zeffirelli." They've simply never heard them before.

This year, for instance, Elliott wanted to improve on the "What are you doing down there?" gag by changing the reply to "My rapier wit prevents me from answering that question." But the company wisely made him change it back to the traditional "Getting up." They thought it was hilarious.

The United States remains immune. "I've often been asked," Elliott says, "but they've got no tradition at all." Although he once claimed that he could produce 20 pantomimes as easily as one, he now thinks his tinsel empire has reached its limit. "Otherwise," he says, "you run the risk of being shoddy."

Elliott insists that his prime motivation is to recreate the magic that cast its spell over him as a child. "It is the first time that a lot of them have come into the theatre," he says. "You have to give them the sincerity so that they will ask 'Can I go to a theatre again?' "

It's a familiar argument, but words like "sincerity" seem surprising to those of us who had seen pantomime as a purely cynical exercise in making money. Don't the audience figures suggest that, far from being recruited to theatre-going, panto audiences only ever come back once a year? "Yes, that's true," Paul Elliott said, " but let's keep on trying. That's all you can do."

WEEK·END ARTS

Hugh Hebert reviews Finnegan Begin Again

Oh, the agony

FELICITY HOPE is the sort of advice column that makes you see why they call them agony aunts. She can really hand out the agony. "The tone is all wrong," moans the editor, "You make them sound like they are all selfish, pleasure-loving idiots." It's like writing your heart out to Claire Rayner and getting back a snub from Mary Whitehouse.

Felicity's column is the last toehold of Finnegan (Robert Preston), now semi-retired from a profession where he was once the confidant of the great and winner of one-third of a Pulitizer Prize. He falls in with, and later for, an arty widow (Mary Tyler Moore), and gives her stern advice about her affair with a two-timing undertaker. In return she helps rebuild Finnegan's life after his wife dies.

For about two-thirds of the time it's a smart, quite funny script delivered on the beat with a good cheerful thump. But as with any MTM show — though Finnegan Begin Again was actually made by Central's new Zenith offshoot — sentimentality creeps in sooner or later. Creeps, did I say? Lumbers, I meant.

Still, until that happens it's silk-finish innocent entertainment all the way. Moore is Moore, and not to be under-rated as a comedy actress, while Preston offers all the bounce and jauntiness you can stand this near Christmas, and knows just how to punch a line home.

But the main pleasures were the incidentals of Walter Lockwood's script and Joan Micklin Silver's direction—the feel of the run-down neighbourhoor where the Finnegans still live, marooned, the undertakers' convention with cocktails amid the crepe and jokers in the caskets.

If Preston sometimes seemed like an over-amplified Spencer Tracy, James Mason rarely seemed like anyone but himself in his 130 movies. Granada's tribute, The Star They Loved To Hate, ran clips from a lot of them between sections of one of the last interviews Mason gave, to Shelley Rohde, while he was making The Shooting Party.

In a sense, Mason was unlucky, trying to take on and beat the Hollywood studio system a little too soon, in the mid-1950s, before it had begun to crumble. He had to go back into the system to become the international star he always wanted to be.

Harold Macmillan's recollections of his war as roving minister in the Mediterranean theatre (BBC-1) spanned three nights, six years, and a lot of blood sweat and tears. Surprisingly few "If onlys . . ." for a man of 90.

Never mind, after the victory parade in Tunis, he said, the Bey invested him with the Order of Chastity, Third Class. As his maiden Lord's speech revealed, among ex-PMs, he's the one decent showman.

Tom Sutcliffe hails ENO's biting revival of a rare Tchaikovsky masterpiece

Cossack chain-saw massacre



Janice Cairns and Malcolm Donnelly. Picture by Douglas Jeffery

OPERA is not about story-telling. The story is only there to tell the truth. And the truth in Tchaikovsky's Mazeppa, now searingly elevated to the operatic pantheon by the English National Opera (thanks to Norwest Holst's sponsorship scheme for digging up rarities), is an extraordinarily modern preception of the relationship between private will and public morality.

In the final scene, Mazeppa, the elderly Cossack boss who has reduced his entire world to mayhem, feels the slight stirring of conscience. Shouldn't he do something about this crazed refugee, whom he recognises as Maria, the love of his life, for whom he has torn the whole community apart? Orlik, his hatchet-man, asks, "Is she dearer than the head upon your shoulders?" Mazeppa with a shrug and a sighing, "Let's go" abandons her and walks off scot-free.

In this Tchaikovskyan Apocalypse Now, there is no retributive justice to reassert the optimistic bourgeois view of humanity. The magnetic tyrant, who presides with apologetic smiles over such regrettably unavoidable necessities as hosepipe torture, electric drill torture, incarceration in a narrow box, beating-up, blood letting, and ultimate execution by chain-saw decapitation (audible but not actually visible), remains a Mr Clean, convinced of his own moral probity, right to the end. Just as he is able to emerge in spotless grey suit and white shirt from his own blood-spattered torture chamber below the stage and launch into a passionate exposition of his political aims that can reconcile Maria to the brutal execution of her own father.

The only answer to this persuasive nihilism (as in Stravinsky's Rake's Progress) is madness. But Tchaikovsky's final tableau is not the mad-scene of belcanto — not a turning-point — it is the end to which this profoundly unsettling opera leads, as Tchaikovsky realised when he cut the noisy choruses and off-stage march which were his first-thought ending.

What is all this about chain-saws? those who have read their Kobbe may be wondering, knowing that the Tsar from whom Mazeppa wants to win Ukrainian independence is Peter the Great. Presumably those who booed David Alden's powerful, brilliantly theatrical production and David Fielding's expressive and aggressively contemporary designs and Ian Spink's strange but wonderful realisation of the Gopak, were expecting Cossacks-a-go-go.

Or perhaps they shared what seems to be the view of most music critics, that opera in performance should be no more committed and challenging than a gramophone record with frocks, in the case of Mazeppa late 17th-century frocks (for the men as well as the women: Peter the Great was a horrid Westerniser who wanted to put the men into breeches). Well, the blood and cruelty of Mazeppa does not necessarily require a moder setting. But I doubt whether the opera could have been stood up with such triumphant confidence, if its psychological modernity had been left veiled in period trappings.

There are only a very few moments (such as where Mazeppa, after the battle of Poltava, complains of being "betrayed by Sweden's king") when the updating even slightly jars. And the stunningly energetic interpretations of the ENO principals, led by Malcolm Donnelly in the title role giving the performance of his life, as a Balkan-style partisan dictator, fit the work like a glove.

Judging by the reputation of the piece among scholars, for whom Tchaikovsky's more characteristically romantic achievements in Queen of Spades and Eugene Onegin with their lyrical individuality make Mazeppa's more public and assertive quality seem less inspired, it has never before revealed its subversive genius so convincingly. The Tsar may just have approved it 100 years ago, as history, but it's scarcely surprising that its values did not please. We should be ready for it now.

Of course, there are plenty of urging Cossack horses in the overture, with its Wagnerian echoes of the Valkyrie's ride, and the personal relationships of the piece are rooted in peasant culture. The melodic inspiration is not as memorable as Tchaikovsky can be. But the music, brilliantly conducted by Mark Elder, giving one of the most exciting performances he has ever achieved at the Coliseum, adds up to one of the most sombre and potent social and political pictures in the operatic repertoire.

The tortures, the battle, the love duets carry total credibility in their dramatic context. Far more than merrely an opportunistic historical exercise, Mazeppa is in the mainstream of the Russian tradition from Lermontov through Dostojevsky, whose most effective recent manifestation is Shostakovich's Lady Macbeth of Mtsinsk.

For the second time this season, following their new Butterfly, the ENO has given a triumphant reassertion of operatic relevance. And I must warn that this is a profoundly disturbing experience, while telling all those who care about opera as theatre not to miss it. The chorus, in these cut-price sponsored shows, carry the music with them for the big opening scene. But you scarcely notice that they have anything more than a programme on their laps, seated in rows on the left side facing across the stage, watching the action of the principals.

Alden uses this to illustrate the structural and political separation of the main characters from the mass — and thus already to establish the context of Mazeppa's personality cult, also indicated in a photo-portrait leaning against the proscenium in front of the curtain.

The set is a barrack-room-high, white wall that encloses the acting space, with swing doors at the corners, and other doors in the middle of each side. Utilitarian lights suggest the ceiling, but the audience is also subjected to the glare of stripLights round the set, from time to time, when lighting changes and quick rearrangements of scrap-heap doors are used to suggest scene changes and to enclose private moments.

In front of this brutal environment, Maria (an irresistible star performance by Janice Cairns) sings of her infatuation with the middle-aged Mazeppa. And when her father (Richard Van Allan giving a memorable interpretation as a tight-suited patriarch with cropped silver hair and spectacles) refuses Mazeppa's request for her hand, the Hetman — as Mazeppa is called — just takes what he wants, setting his men on the chorus, who flee helter skelter away from their ranks of chairs in a memorable image of turmoil. (The chorus are mostly depersonalised by a kind of domino, white-grey make-up, or by masks.)

In detailing the torture, violence, and refugee distress that stems from Mazeppa's wilfulness, in the second and third acts where the pace changes to an agonising and obsessive kind of fatalism, Alden never spares our imaginations. But all the graphic violence is vital to contrast between Mazeppa's works and Mazeppa.

This is a great ensemble show. Chorus and costumed members of the orchestra excel themselves, whether on stage or in the royal and facing boxes in front of the proscenium. But almost the most impressive achievement of all is the extraordinary level of the principals' work — all except Felicity Palmer drawn from within the company. Miss Palmer as Liubov, Kochubei's wife, achieves probably the musical peak of the evening in her scene with Janice Cairns's Maria, where she tries to persuade her daughter to intervene on behalf of Kochubei — the rush to save him of course coming too late. There is good supporting work from Malcolm Rivers as Orlik, from Alan Woodrow as Iskra (who shares in Kochubei's unspeakable fate) and from Grzeme Matheson-Bruce as a drunken cossack granted a rare moment to alleviate tension.

Rowland Sidwell as Andrei, who loves and loses Maria, shows once again his alluring vocal potential as the coming company tenor — acting the part with utter conviction, even his few broken notes seeming totally in character. Perfect singing should be second to committed acting. But the singing from Cairns, Donnelly and Palmer — setting a well-followed example of audible words — is as near perfect as the ENO could wish. This Mazeppa is far too good to be scrapped after its short run: it must join the Coliseum rep.

WADDINGTON GALLERIES

Waldemar Januszczak

Laurens and Miro

HENRI LAURENS is often overlooked in assessments of early twentieth century art. His role seems to be that of the perpetual post-cubist, a sculptor who took Picasso's tougher primitive forms and refined them into something decorative and unmistakably French. Laurens's nudes might have African torsos, and heads modelled on those of the angels on the West front of Chartres, but they recline on their pedestals with all the poise and promise of Madame Recamier.

A fascinating juxtaposition of a minor and a major talent pairs Laurens with Joan Miro. Although Laurens's work is hugely pleasing—I particularly admired the still-life reliefs in which he prefigures Ben Nicholson just as pointedly as he prefigures Henry Moore in the reclining nudes—he remains an artist whose emotional range is very narow. All the sculptures in the show eschew power for grace.

But what are we to make of Joan Miro? The further we move from his era, the greater an artist he seems. It used to be said that Miro was a master of innocence, an old artist who captured some of the springtime freshness of a child's vision. This is far too simple an interpretation.

Miro's language is a fresh one but it is not youthful. On the contrary it is surely driven by nostalgia for something which has been lost rather than found. There is innocence here, but it belongs in the past. His art seems to be searching, almost forlornly, for memories, for colours, shapes, stories, people, feelings, from the artist's Spanish childhood.

The show moves from a few early paintings, small, highly coloured and cheeky, to the larger, sadder shapes which dominate his late work. In his treatment of bold shapes and bright colours, the old Miro is every bit as assured as the old Matisse of the cut-outs.

But even these splendid paintings are outstripped in power by his sculpture. Metamorphosis is the key to Miro's sculpture, just as it is the key to almost all the sculpture being produced by the stars of New Art, for whom he has been so influential, witness the Paladino show held in this same space last month. But where Paladino's transformations seemed laboured and predictable—a nude becomes a tree, which becomes a bird, etc—Miro's are breathtakingly inventive. Abstract shapes and recognisable objects have been brought together with the enthusiasm of a magpie genius.

Henri Laurens and Joan Miro at Waddington Galleries, Cork street, until Christmas.

EXETER

Nicolas Cottis

Toad Of Toad Hall

A LARGE and mischievous imagination has been put down among a group of small animals, mostly furry, at the Northcott Theatre. What happens is going to draw in fans of the writer and illustrator Raymond Briggs from far and wide to see his first stage designs — for Toad of Toad Hall.

The set is the star of the show, a picture book of nine vast backdrops, said to have stolen most of the dress rehearsal time, so that the cast seemed unusually accident-prone on opening night. It must also be a challenge to start a characterisation from a costume drawing which says more with its body language on paper than many actors ever do on stage.

Mike Burnside is one of the exceptions. He carries his Toad headpiece, with its expressive lower jaw, splendidly through attitudes that range from extreme braggadocio to ultimate dejection.

Simon Needs's nimble Rat and Michael Haughey's nervous Mole establish a friendly rapport with the children in the early pastoral scenes. The stoats and weasels are off the city streets, beleathered and studded, and chained, with toothy jaws and rainbow haircuts. They are just dangerous enough and contemporary enough to make one think that Brigg's imagination is being wasted on kids' stuff like Toad.

Then comes the scene of Toad's trial and everything changes. A ferocious judge, jurors, and the irrepressible defendant bob up and down in absurd skyscraper benches until the stage looks like a pop-up book. Stewart Trotter produces it with an operatic sense of how to place voices in space.

GREENWICH

Nicholas de Jongh

Cider With Rosie

SAVE me from scenes of simple rural bliss. Keep me away from comic country folk who read the future, know how to stew voles in nettle juice, and grow misty-eyed over memories of pre-marital screwing among the haystacks. And the taste of Cider, let along Cider with Rosie, leaves a nasty sensation in my mouth at least. Laurie Lee's memoir of his country childhood in the 1920s was first published 25 years ago, and James Roose-Evans provided an adaptation and production shortly afterwards.

He returns with this revival which leaves my stock of seasonal goodwill exhausted. Cider, in this dramatised form, is no more than a disconnected string of anecdotes, conveying a vague sense of rural village life, and an impression of Laurie's own mother. And although Laurie is ostensibly the subject of the evening's recollection, and Christopher Timothy is forever on hand and sometimes at sea, to play the grown up Laurie and fond narrator of his own times, Mother looms larger than he.

Bruno Santini's sparse and beautiful set consists of a sharply tilted and circular playing area, framed by translucent revolving screens. And on the burnished and pale yellow surfaces and through those shining leaf-spotted screens, an impression of the seasons is evoked. The stage is almost bare, with wooden chairs serving not only domestically and for a charabanc outing but also as haystacks, when Laurie finally gives himself over to the juices of those fallows — a case of Cider before Rosie, I presume. And in its careful stage pictures Roose-Evans's production is always efficient.

But Cider's content soon leaves us with the lees-winsome country children gambolling at suppertime, Mother's reminiscence of life below stairs, and Miss Emily's dress with a 1,000 pearls or, at best, her glimpse of the prince in the outdoor privy. Life at school with a caricatured headmistress or two, a charabanc trip to Weston-super-Mare and two old grannies of the terminal bore sort (confined not a moment too soon) are just so much small beer.

Barbara Ewing's Mother is rather typical of the cast's rather sentimental approach—moving as she does between shrieks of hysteria and smiling bonhomie, while Simon Butteriss as Laurie is high on sheer charm. Mr Timothy, standing awkwardly around, speaks strangely—jew for dew and Juke for Duke

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GERRY COTTLE'S circus has undergone so many reincarnations out of the ashes of financial disaster that Cottle, always the showman, has been toying with the idea of renaming his company Phoenix Productions.

The latest cycle of catastrophies and transformations began in 1978 when Cottle was invited to mount a circus spectacular in Iran. "The Shah was still hanging on to power," he explains. "But there were tanks on the streets and demonstrations. What's more, a curfew had been imposed in Tehran. We played in a 12,000-seat stadium to audiences of the size you'd expect to find in fringe theatres.

"That wasn't the end of our troubles. The general who organised our visit was suddenly taken ill when the matter of our being paid arose. Our losses were astronomical. An army of international lawyers has worked on the case, but we've never received a single penny."

Back in England, Cottle's two travelling shows were struggling to survive and the VAT-man was breathing down his neck. The company was wound up in the summer of 1980. Undeterred, Cottle bought back some of his equipment and went out again with a smaller show. All seemed secure until he joined forces with Gary Glitter to produce a rock 'n' roll circus which folded after one week.

"At that point," Cottle confesses, "I began to lose a little of my confidence and self-belief. But I was saved by a tour of the Far East — Hong Kong, Macau, Malaysia, and Singapore — which was contracted for eight weeks and lasted 18 months. I came back with £250,000 in the bank."

And so it came to pass that last Christmas Cottle surveyed the English circus scene (12 travelling shows, all offering traditional goods in a constricted market) and decided that the time was ripe for yet another metamorphosis: he would create a circus without animals.

Cottle admits that the decision was made for purely practical reasons. "When I started my first circus in 1970, there were just two or three towns which banned performing animals on their sites. Now there must be around 40. We can't bury our heads in the sawdust forever. I have mixed feelings on the issue. Training wild animals doesn't involve any cruelty — it takes care and patience and affection. But I can't honestly defend a situation where you can find five lions cooped up in a 40ft lorry."

Nevertheless he's upset by the all-inclusiveness of the bans and the fact that he's deprived of his horses. His special contempt is reserved for one council that threw out his appeal to be allowed the odd horse and then proudly announced the appearance of ponies in its local pantomime.

"There are double standards in operation. Circuses have been drawing all the flak. The influence of minority groups on councils is very strong. That's fine, except that they ignore public opinion. Last month I was rash enough to say that, if council committees keep on applying these double standards, the result will be circuses run by one-legged black lesbian midgets."

The bitter tone is uncharacteristic. For the most part, Gerry Cottle is overjoyed with his new venture. Earlier this year, it's true, he was ejected from the British Circus Proprietors' Association when he refused to find another name for his animal-less show.

After all, there's a strong tradition of circuses without any animal ingredient in countries such as China and Russia. And he's even more encouraged by his experiences a couple of weeks ago as a judge at the Circus World Championships in Monte Carlo, where nine of the ten prizes awarded went to human acts.



Gerry Cottle

Malcolm Hay on a circus without animals

Cage me a human

And what is Cottle offering in place of such old favourites as chimpanzee's tea-parties or elephants sitting on tiny stools? "For a start, the present show is far more action-packed than it could ever be with all those interruptions while cages and heavy equipment was dragged on. We've put a lot of thought and effort into making it theatrical. And in two big sequences we try to re-create the atmosphere of a Victorian and Chinese circus. Acrobats and aerialists, fire-eaters and, of course, clowns, trick-cyclists and tumblers . . . and 12 'circus students' who joined me at the beginning of the year and whip up more excitement than a lot of established acts I've seen."

Cottle is currently installed on Clapham Common (the London Borough of Lambeth, which owns the site, has banned animals since 1978). Over Christmas and the New Year he'll be working alongside John Carter's famous Victorian Steam Fair to present what's billed as two weeks of "good old-style family fun."

In the 1930s there were five or six Christmas Circuses in London—at Crystal Palace, Earl's Court, Harringay, Olympia, the Agricultural Hall, Islington. "But this isn't just an exercise in nostalgia. I really do believe that our show this year is a pointer to the future."

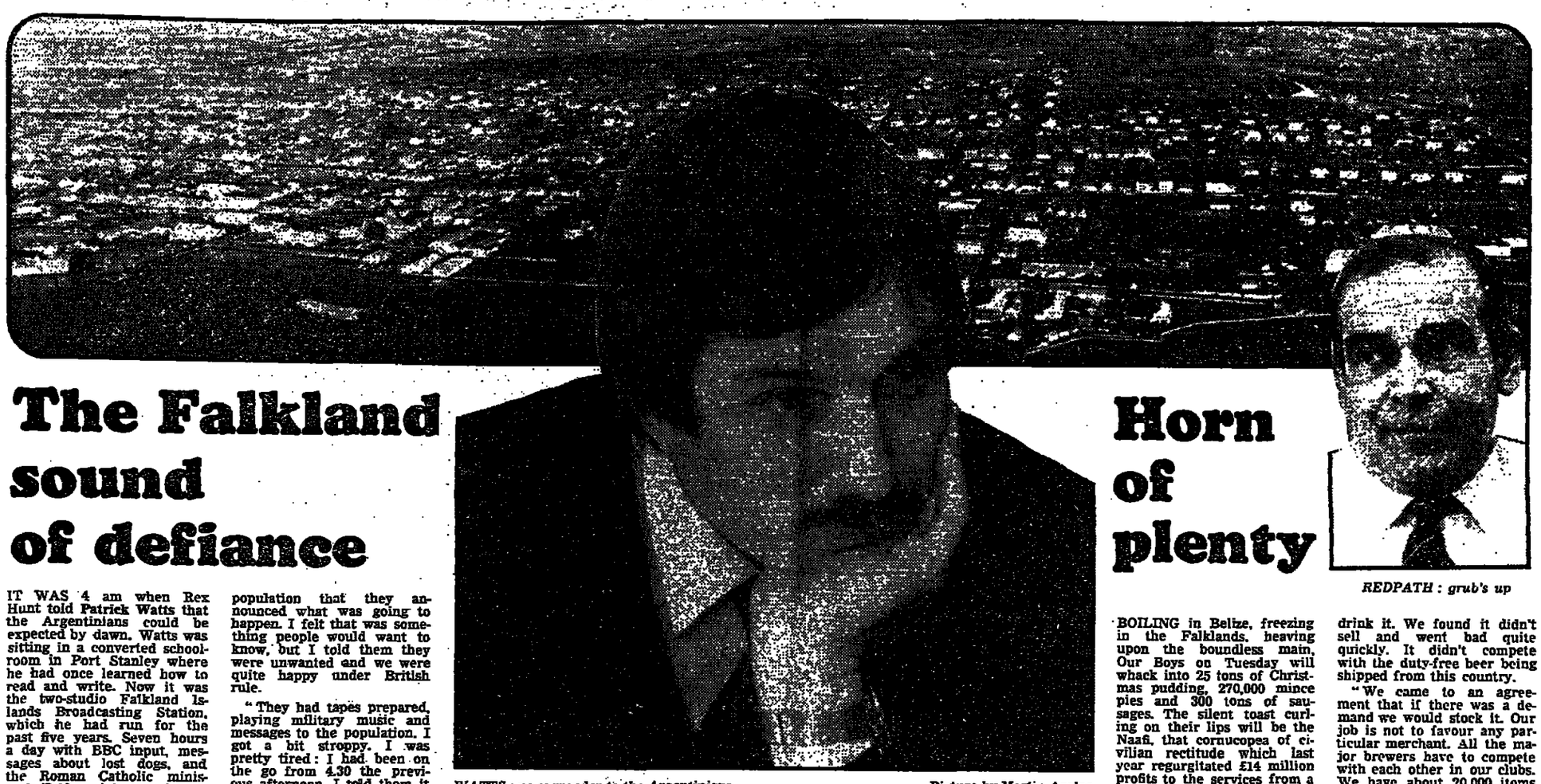
At the age of 39, Cottle cannot envisage ever giving up the business. "I ran away from home at 15 to join a small travelling circus—a terrible cliche, but it's true! I still get the same buzz. Even after all the difficulties and disappointments, there's nothing else I'd rather do."

The interesting and unanswered question is how far the public is willing to support the idea of a circus without animals. So far, the signs are encouraging. And yet, even if it fails, one suspects that all will not be lost. Cottle, the eternal optimist, is sure to buckle down and engineeer yet another resurrection of what he still believes is the Greatest Show on Earth.

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WEEK-END PEOPLE



WATTS : no surrender to the Argentinians.

Picture by Martin Argles

The Falkland sound of defiance

IT WAS 4 am when Rex Hunt told Patrick Watts that the Argentinians could be expected by dawn. Watts was sitting in a converted schoolroom in Port Stanley where he had once learned how to read and write. Now it was the two-studio Falkland Islands Broadcasting Station, which he had run for the past five years. Seven hours a day with BBC input, messages about lost dogs, and the Roman Catholic minister's Friday night newsletter.

Hunt had urged Watts to stay on the air for as long as possible. He decided to remain until the Argentinians walked in. "After listening to the sound of shells and small arms fire I became quite scared," he told me in London this week. "I did what I suppose any broadcaster would do. I opened up my mike and started to describe what I could hear."

The islanders responded by telephoning their own sightings — light aircraft landing, the Royal Marines' battle, and the shelling of houses on the outskirts of Stanley. Argentinian transmissions broke in with greetings to the oppressed Malvinas population. Watts acted as an intermediary, remaining in touch with Rex Hunt over an open line. "When I said 'Have you surrendered to the troops?' he replied 'I will never surrender to the bloody Argies'."

The invaders arrived at the station at about 8.30. "I had left the door unlocked. They duly marched in and extended their hands in greeting. They told me they wanted me to broadcast messages. I refused. They started arguing among themselves so I told them to go out in the passage because they were creating a disturbance while I was on the air.

"They started pointing guns around. I said 'That won't do you any good.' They put their guns down in the studio and went into the passage, still arguing. Eventually they came out in a more orderly manner. They said it was to the benefit of the population that they announced what was going to happen. I felt that was something people would want to know, but I told them they were unwanted and we were quite happy under British rule.

"They had tapes prepared, playing military music and messages to the population. I got a bit stroppy. I was pretty tired: I had been on the go from 4.30 the previous afternoon. I told them it was my radio station and they couldn't do what they wanted. Eventually they told me I had better go home and get some sleep."

Watts (40) later returned to remain with the station throughout the occupation. He wanted to retain a familiar British voice — "to show that all was not lost" — although his action led to one or two mutterings about collaboration. More important, perhaps, he repeatedly challenged the right of his Argentinian opposite number to broadcast Buenos Aires news without a BBC equivalent.

"We compromised by not reading war news from either side. This went on for about a month. We tried to maintain a normal service with English and Spanish output. They were very concerned about Dad's Army. They thought it might contain war messages. They would listen to it for 30 minutes and not smile once."

The Argentinian controller grew increasingly nervous as the Task Force approached, said Watts. A week before South Georgia was recaptured, he announced that he had some urgent bills to pay and was not seen again.

The service was scaled down shortly before the British invasion, then virtually put out of action when shells damaged the station's antennae. The transmitter also needed repairs: the Argentinians had kept it running as a makeshift heater.

Another occupation began. Watts hammered out a deal that would allow personnel from the British Forces Broadcasting Service to scale up the station's output to 22 hours a day. He insisted that he should retain control and that the stations identity as the property of the Falklands' government should not be impaired. The arrangement has worked well, he believes.

He also secured a pledge that the station would keep the BFBS's new equipment should they ever withdraw. This deal will pay off handsomely: the BFBS is to move shortly to a new station near the airport at Mount Pleasant.

But Watts was not a happy man when I met him shortly before his return to the Falklands. He had taken extended leave in an effort to find assisted places for his two teenaged daughters at a Scottish boarding school. The Scottish authorities denied that Falklands citizens qualify, despite EEC documents to the contrary.

"I am very unhappy about education in the Falklands. I was dismayed to find that of the £31 million development grant, none has been allocated to education. Very few councillors seem to care. Even if my daughters were educated in the Falklands there are no opportunities for them. They could go into nursing, but with no proper training they would be people who go round cleaning up the mess."

Watts, who is divorced, began looking for a job in Britain. Last week he learned that the BBC had turned down his application for a sports producer's job. After upholding the independence and best traditions of broadcasting, I suggested, this seemed a bit mean.

"I was a bit surprised," he admitted. "I do all the football and horse-racing commentaries. I am known as the Peter O'Sullivan of the Falklands because I seem to know more about horses and handicapping than anyone else. But I was grateful that they gave me an interview. I have to accept that I have to take my turn in the queue."

On Christmas Day, as usual, he will be covering the Falklands' festive meet. His daughters won't be there, however. They are now attending a high school in Britain in the care of his sister. "I don't know what will happen," he said.

Horn of plenty

REDPATH : grub's up

BOILING in Belize, freezing in the Falklands, heaving upon the boundless main, Our Boys on Tuesday will whack into 25 tons of Christmas pudding, 270,000 mince pies and 300 tons of sausages. The silent toast curling on their lips will be the Naafi, that cornucopea of civilian rectitude which last year regurgitated £14 million profits to the services from a turnover of £334 million.

Such plenitude would excite Milo Minderbinder, the fixer in Catch 22 who juggled Sardinian eggs with the Egyptian cotton crop. Not so, says Ken Redpath, the Naafi's genial controller of supplies. To confound corrupton, buying and selling are segregated, sometimes at the expense of commercial efficiency.

But the Naafi must have the power to transform local economies, I suggested. He replied that his first priority is to make the Naafi as profitable as possible while providing service families with the grub to which they are accustomed. This means mostly British fare. Germany's 400 Naafi outlets import 60 per cent of supplies, whereas Cyprus insists on local purchasing quotas.

I asked him about the bitter experience of Everards, the British brewer which set up a plant in the Falklands to market Penguin ale, only to be flooded out by the Naafi's lake of Courage.

"It was not a good idea in the first place," he said. "Everards said they were going to set up a brewery and could they rely on our support? They meant it was going to be good for Everards. We said it depends on its commercial viability and whether the troops would drink it. We found it didn't sell and went bad quite quickly. It didn't compete with the duty-free beer being shipped from this country.

"We came to an agreement that if there was a demand we would stock it. Our job is not to favour any particular merchant. All the major brewers have to compete with each other in our clubs. We have about 20,000 items in our inventory."

He was given four days in which to victual the Task Force — normally a six-week job. "These things always seem to happen at weekends. The quantities were a bit mind-boggling. I remember saying at the end of a briefing 'You nip out and buy 80 tons of sausages'. And two million Mars Bars, enough to sink a battleship.

His first thought had been to replenish Ascension island with South African goods. He rang the Ministry of Defence for advice. "They said don't do it, it's politically sensitive." He also sent a buyer to the Chilean Embassy to enquire about buying their fruit and veg. "We got the brush-off. They had to maintain the status quo."

The MoD provides a political steer on requests from former colonies still serviced by the Naafi. Until last year they operated a £20 million annual trade in Malaysia, more than 20 years after independence. They still buy and warehouse goods for Kenya and Uganda. Redpath says the MoD curbed trade during Idi Amin's rule, although recent orders include 7,000 bicycles and a bakery.

The Naafi's empire also embraces most British embassies. "The term diplomatic bag gets stretched a bit occasionally," he said.

Manchester Guardian

1934

WITH Christmas only three days away, Mr Lloyd George, in a debate in the House of Commons on December 21, which was reported in the Manchester Guardian of Saturday, December 22, challenged the Government on their unemployment policy.

He said: "You say you have improved the public credit, there is real confidence, the Budget is balanced. Having done that, what is the policy of the Government for unemployment? What are they waiting for?

"There were 2,100,000 registered unemployed. They would find that the real figure was nearer 2,500,000 after Protection had had its way, and the Board of Trade said that the home market had reached the point of saturation."

Surely the Government were not going to part with the House for a month and "tell us that the only contribution that they propose to make is a two million grant for capital expenditure in a part of the affected areas in this country in which they had only one-fifth of the unemployed."

"I ask the Chancellor in all sincerity, what is his outlook? There are 2,100,000. There is a check for the time being to the trade revival. Does he look to our being down to 1,500,000 by this time next year; in two years to 1,000,000? Does he really contemplate going on like this? Have they no plan for absorbing them and providing work for them?"

It had struck him during the debate on the unemployment assistance regulations that we were facing the dilemma of a humane country. The average wages in this country were just enough to provide the essentials without much of a margin for leisure, for the amenities of life, and for the emergencies, and there was a population of about seven millions condemned to live year by year below that minimum.

Let us face it. We could not look at millions of people in this country living year after year below the minimum of decent subsistence. The House of Commons could not face it — was putting up the allowances for worklessness. Was it not better that the Government should face the problem of finding work for these people? To wait for the tide's turning and a boom that would float everybody into work? Or did they propose that there should be a million and a half of the people living on public charity — a most demoralising thing? No work and no nope of work; to the adults it was misery, to the young it was mischief.

Mr Chamberlain began as the optimist that he said Mr Lloyd Geroge used to be. He gave a few symptoms of reviving prosperity for members to cheer themselves with at Christmas. We were making more progress than any other country. In finance by loan conversions they had made a permanent saving of £37,000,000 a year in interest on the National Debt and, with consequential cheapening of short-term loans, had brought down the interest and management of the debt by something like 20 per cent since 1931. Cheap money for industry had followed. It was not difficult to get cheap money for any remunerative enterprise in the country today....

In discussing what they were going to do with their cheap money the Chancellor made an interesting statement about what he called "the unification of mining royalties," which he personally favoured as almost indispensable to the orderly developing of coal-mining....

Mr Chamberlain's first and indeed only answer to Mr Lloyd George was bluntly that the Government's unemployment policy was to go on as they had been going.

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: Actresses: **Dame Peggy Ashcroft**, 77, and **Patricia Hayes**, 75; **Dr Alan Bush**, composer, 84; **Noel Edmonds**, broadcaster, 36; journalists: **Mike Molloy**, 44, and **Peregrine Worsthorne**, 61; **Chris Old**, cricketer, 36.

TOMORROW: **Queen Silvia of Sweden**, 41; **Lord Blake**, historian, provost, the Queen's College, Oxford, 68; **Maurice Denham**, actor, 75; **Christopher Lawrence**, silversmith, industrial designer, 48; **Rayner Unwin**, publisher, author, 59.

MONDAY: Actresses: **Jill Bennett**, 53, and **Ava Gardner**, 62; **Stan Bowles**, former England footballer, 36; **Colin Cowdrey**, former England and Kent cricket captain, 52; **Jeremy Hindley**, racehorse trainer, 41; MPs: **Nicholas Fairbairn**, QC, 51, and **John Taylor**, 47; **Thea Porter**, fashion designer, 57; **Philip Ziegler**, publisher, biographer, 55.

CHRISTMAS DAY: **Princesses Alice, Duchess of Gloucester**, 83, and **Alexandra**, 48; actors: **Andrew Cruickshank**, 77, **Noele Gordon**, 59, and **Sissy Spacek**, 35; **Francoise Durr**, tennis player, 42; **Kenny Everett**, comedian, 40; **Lords Annan**, 68, and **Grade**, 78; **Ismail Merchant**, film producer, 48; **Nigel Starmer-Smith**, rugby football commentator, 40.

BOXING-DAY: Actors: **Jane Lapotaire**, 40, and **Dennis Quilley**, 57; **Patric Dickenson**, poet, playwright, 70; **Professor Thea King**, clarinettist, 59.

THURSDAY: Actresses: **Marlene Dietrich**, 84, and **Irene Handl**, 83; **Donald Northcote**, professor of plant biochemistry and master, Sidney Sussex, Cambridge, 63; **Wilfred Sheed**, critic, novelist, 54; **Janet Street-Porter**, journalist, broadcaster, 38.

FRIDAY: **Donald Carr**, secretary, Test and County Cricket Board, 58; **Roy Hattersley**, deputy leader, Labour Party, 52; **Simon Raven**, author, critic, dramatist, 57; **Maggie Smith**, actress, 50.

The female part of a man called Eva



MATTES as Fassbinder

EVA MATTES, the German actress, has taken a great many risks already in her comparatively short life. Before she came of age, she played a Vietnamese girl raped five times by American soldiers and then murdered in a film called Okay, which caused a scandal at the Berlin Festival of its year. Then she played for Rainer Werner Fassbinder in a film called Jailbait, whose title is explanatory. In the New Year British audiences will see her in a film about Fassbinder himself. It is called a Man Called Eva; and she plays Fassbinder.

It isn't just because she looks very like the enfant terrible director when she dons a wispy moustache and beard and pads herself out with a paunch. That, she says, was not the point. The purpose of having an actress play the part was to stop the film looking like a biography, and to help make it into the kind of non-realist melodrama that Fassbinder himself encompassed.

It's a film, she adds, not so much about Fassbinder as about the very thin dividing line between what an artist achieves and what he or she actually is.

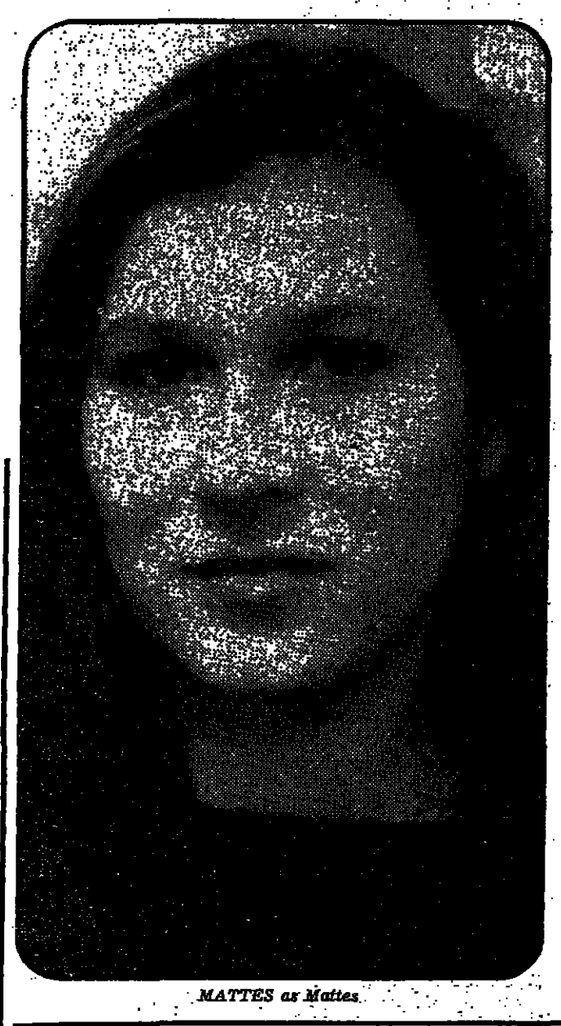
She knew Fassbinder quite well after appearing in several of his films and theatre productions and says that he was always very kindly and protective to work for. She'll always remember how she first met him. It was at a disco when she was just 15.

She was there with her mother, a former film star, and was deeply embarrassed when her mother went over to where Fassbinder was sitting and told him about her daughter's acting ability. "He was very quiet and gentle. He seemed to understand what my mother was doing, and what I felt about it. I respected him for that."

Eva, who has since developed into one of Germany's best film and theatre actresses, says she made A Man Like Eva out of respect for Fassbinder and hated it when the film was accused of being exploitative.

Eva, born in Bavaria of an Austrian father and a Hungarian mother (stage name Margret Symo) is principally known here for Percy Adlon's Celeste, in which she played Proust's housekeeper, for Helma Sanders-Brahms's Germany Pale Mother and for the two Herzog films, Wozzeck and Strosek. Her reputation rides high.

Playing Fassbinder, however, she considers her biggest gamble of all — a risk that people will criticise rather than praise her. "But that's alright," she says, "I work exactly like Fassbinder himself, at full stretch and on the very edge."



MATTES as Mattes

Dice man



JAFFE : game for a gamble

CONSIDER the loneliness of the adult game inventor. According to Jack Jaffé there are six established manufacturers in Britain producing between two and six new games a year, all of them of the juvenile variety. The dice are loaded against him.

In 1972, while working in PR and marketing for the Daily Mirror, he invented Libido. "No one had ever produced a game specifically for adults," he said. "The object of the game was to get the other players to reveal their sexual experience and attitudes, and not necessarily to hop into bed with one another."

He decided to manufacture and market Libido himself. He soon parted company with his employers. "They decided that my talents were not being put to proper use".

He has since marketed two other games out of the 200 he has invented over the past 19 years. "I have always adored playing games. When I was growing up in Glasgow the highlight of the week was the Friday night games playing session. There wasn't much else to do."

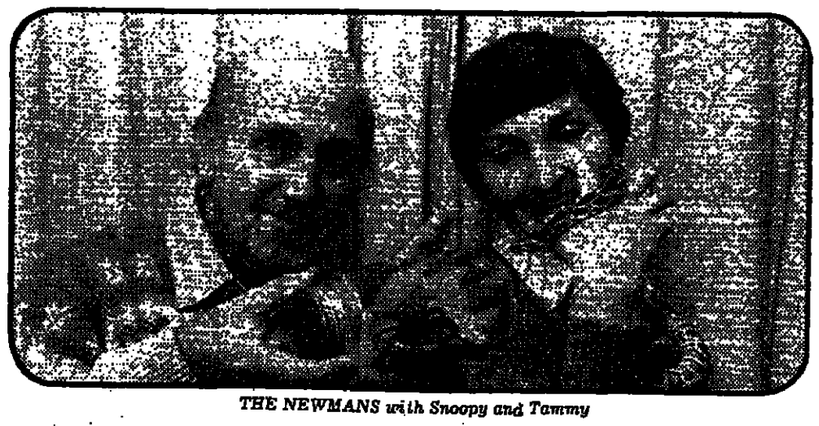
For the past five years he has pursued the double helix of adult gamesmanship, ironing out the wrinkles in interminable sessions of play. Now he thinks he has cracked it in Save The President (£9.99), which introduces several unique features: It is basically a struggle by Soviet agents to kill the US President on his journey from the White House to the Capitol on Inauguration Day, resisted by American agents.

The unusual factor is that since the identities of agents are not revealed during play, the winner is not known until the end. Another refinement is that the CIA sometimes shoots the President by mistake, and Americans can turn traitor. Jaffé claims its most remarkable aspect is that it works as well for two players as for six.

He dismisses accusations of tastelessness, citing a body of novels and films which have ritualised presidential assassination. "Is it less tasteful than the innumerable computer games in which the objective is to shoot at something or someone?"

President Reagan travels to his inauguration next month. Jaffé has sent him a copy but has as yet received no acknowledgement. He also posted one to President Chernenko—"to show I have no presidential bias". If Chernenko is not seen in public for the next few weeks there will be no cause for alarm.

People is written by Stuart Wavell



THE NEWMANS with Snoopy and Tammy

A python's loving embrace

THIS story turned my hair white overnight. During its narration an incontinent cockatoo perched on my head: fortunately the mess washed out in the morning. It is a tale of love betwixt Alan and Val Newman, pharmaceutical researchers and bird breeders of Woodley, Berkshire, who sought for each other Christmas gifts to express their mutually high esteem.

Inspiration struck Alan first. "I was going to wake up up at five o'clock on Christmas morning with a cup of coffee and a snake," he said.

He could not bring himself to do it without confiding in her: the serpent would have to be kept under their bed in a 4ft. tank. So together they went to the pet shop where Alan had spied an Indian python, renowned for its firm embrace.

"Look what's behind you," cried Val. And there, amid a tangle of large spiders, was a cuddly red-kneed Tarantula. Val had found the way to Alan's heart. "I just love spiders," he explained. "I love having them in my hands."

Impatiently they transported Snoopy the snake and Tammy the Tarantula to their home. Snoopy, they were relieved to discover, was not off her food. "She opened a tremendously wide mouth and within 15 minutes the mouse was six inches down," said Alan. From such fortnightly snacks Snoopy will grow from a mere 2ft. 6in. to around 15ft.—almost the circumference of their bed. Tammy wolfs down live crickets and mealworms every 10 days.

It was not a sudden infatuation. Val had wanted a snake for two years. Alan, who loathes the things, threatened to get a spider, abhored by Val. Both now seem to be conquering their fears.

"Tammy is so quick, she's likely to run up your arm," said Val with something approaching affection. "She's got a bald spot on her abdomen where she rubs the hairs off when she's frustrated." nave had the snake out on

Alan reciprocated: "We our laps playing with it. It's satiny smooth to the touch. We will have to build up a sense of mutual trust ..."

Guidelines into a very grey area

For 101 years, part of the British police force has been solely engaged in political surveillance. In 1984, as in 1883, one of its principal targets is Irish republicanism. But gradually the net has widened from Fenianism. The Special Irish Branch has become the Special Branch pure and simple and it now concerns itself with a far wider range of oppositional activities. Some idea of how wide that net is now cast emerges from the guidelines on Special Branch work released this week by the Home Office. Today's Special Branch deals with firearms and explosives crime, immigration and nationality inquiries, port and airport surveillance, armed protection for VIPs and checking on the movements of foreign diplomats. But the guidelines also highlight two further major responsibilities: the Branch are the legmen for MI5 in dealing with terrorism and subversion and, in the bland language of the new document, they gather information about threats to public order.

Nothing of what we now know about the Special Branch has emerged without outside public pressure. Until recently, there was no public information whatsoever. MPs who tried to put down questions on the subject were simply refused answers. No local police force (and each has its own Special Branch) gave any information to its police authority. This changed in the dying years of the Callaghan government, after the furore about the Agee and Hosenball deportations and the ABC official secrets case. After pressure from Mr Robin Cook MP, the then Home Secretary, Merlyn Rees, allowed a brief adjournment debate, in which he acknowledged that the Branch concerns itself with "subversive activities which threaten the safety or wellbeing of the State, and which are intended to undermine or overthrow parliamentary democracy by political, industrial or violent means." Since then, most local police forces have given brief and anodyne annual details of their Special Branch. Even so, it has taken the brave decision of the all-party Home Affairs Select Committee to mount an investigation into the Branch to prise out the latest details. This week's release of the guidelines is designed to cushion Mr Leon Brittan's unwilling appearance in front of the committee in the new year.

The new guidelines beg vital questions. In finally admitting what many already assumed, that the police "provide assessments" about marches, demonstrations, meetings and pickets, they fail to say how far and by what methods the police routinely keep tabs on wholly legitimate political activity. The elastic definitions of subversion allow police to gather information on legal as well as illegal activities. Recent revelations about the surveillance of the CND and of the miners' union are only the tip of this grey area iceberg. An inquiry in South Australia in 1977 by Mr Justice White into a Special Branch which was set up by British police on the British model revealed that almost every protest movement, trade union and socialist group (including the Labour Party which formed the elected state government) had been considered systematic fair game. It is probable, at the very least, that the British Special Branch employs similar criteria in its file-keeping, and there is nothing in the new guidelines which seriously dents that suspicion. When Mr Brittan sees the select committee, someone should ask him how many Special Branch files exist on members of the Labour Party and how many on the Conservative Party.

Every state has a right to prevent its overthrow and to stop terrorism. The British state has long had laws giving it those powers. But the civil liberties of those who oppose the government are no less vital, and they have no such legal support. At present, the publication of the guidelines serves to legitimate current dubious police practice rather than to protect the right to oppose. Even the guidelines, inadequate though they are, have no force. What is needed is legislation to put the security services, the Special Branch and their methods on a statutory basis which can at least be challenged in the courts.

General Zia's nifty gambit

There is, in the result of the controversial Pakistani constitutional referendum, something for everybody — but rather more for the enemies of General Zia Ul Haq than for his friends. The regime claims that over 95 per cent of votes cast favoured the new, Islamic constitution which is to come into force next year.

Few, though, can have expected otherwise. To invite Pakistanis to vote against Islam is like inviting Midwesterners to vote against motherhood and apple pie. That, of course, was why President Zia announced that he would take a "yes" vote on Islamification as an endorsement of his rule for the next five years, as well. Even so, according to independent sources it is clear that, despite the ban on political parties and organised campaigning against the referendum, despite the relentless government pressure to crowd the polls, a clear majority of the electorate sat things out. Of course they were not prepared to vote against Islam but they were in no mood to give their blessing to the military men. In a sense, therefore General Zia has finally "legitimised" his transition to the presidency. But he as done so with a piece of theatrical manipulation.

Pakistan will now move on to elections to the national and provincial assemblies in March. They too will be, somehow, "Islamic" in character. But this week's referendum was calculatedly vague about the constitution which the people were supposedly endorsing. Little, local details about the voting system and the powers of the assemblies, to say nothing of the right to stand for office or to campaign for the candidate of your choice, will have to be sorted out sometime soon by the newly legitimised ruler. But already it has been decreed that political parties will be banned, and (unless Zia has a last minute change of heart) no member or former member of the Bhutto party will be allowed to stand.

Zia has been quite astonishingly lucky. To overthrow and then, to execute the charismatic Zulfikar Ali Bhutto initially placed him almost beyond the pale. The invasion of Afghanistan, the collapse of the Shah, late 1970's instability in Turkey and uncertainties in India all conspired to move Zia centre stage. From being an upstart dictator he has evolved into a long serving ruler and one with a pretty hot line to the United States. Zia has often expressed admiration for President Evren of Turkey, who seized control of his troubled nation in 1980, had his ruthless couple of years of military rule and then imposed a no-nonsense form of guided democracy. The exercise Zia is now embarked upon is but a travesty of Turkey's controlled flirtation with the ballot box. It may have demonstrated (to whose surprise?) that Pakistan remains an Islamic state. It has not automatically endorsed President Zia's version of Islamic rule. Nor has it done aything to ensure that when he eventually goes, it will be peacefully, democratically or of his own volition. Pakistan's problems remain very much Pakistan's enduring problems.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A hard left consensus that can defeat Thatcher

Sir,—Seumas Milne raises some interesting points about the nature of the ideological divide within the Communist Party and its effects on the Labour Party: but his argument is limited and often inaccurate. He correctly identifies the emergence of an "unholy hard left alliance of the opposition in the CP, Trotskyists and the 'fundamentalist' Labour left" in response to the growing trends of eurocommunism: but he overestimates the degree of influence of eurocommunist ideas on the Labour "soft left."

Kinnock may well have shared a platform with Hobsbawm during the last election campaign, though using Hobsbawm's "realism" as a cover up for the "new realism" of the Labour right, but it is clear by his interview with Hobsbawm (Marxism Today, October 1984) that he does not understand the historical nature of the crisis on the Left. The ideological thrust of Thatcherism as a response to the failures of social democracy and the subsequent vacuum on the Left, has been able to construct a "new consensus" around the appeal of "authoritarian populism"—and it is to this "new consensus" that the Left must address itself.

Rather than "abandoning" the class struggle — as hardliners in the Communist Party and others suggest, eurocommunism seeks to take into account and develop new forms of class struggle. Milne says that the Morning Star and other groups on the Left give pride of place to "class politics." What they do in effect is to reiterate old (and often out of date) forms of traditional and industrial struggles, which as Bea Campbell pointed out (Marxism Today, December 1984) are not only "embodied . . . in the old mainstream of labourist chauvinism . . . but are being dissolved in another alliance happening somewhere else between the old Trotskyist far left, the Labour Party hard left and sectarians within the Communist Party."

This "historic compromise" between the 'so-called' Stalinists and Trotskyist groups (which is moral rather than Marxist, there's nothing scientific about their analysis) does not reflect or encompass the changing political and social currents and the new aspirations of the working-class and other social groups. The idea that women "must wait until after the revolution" or at least be subordinated to the more 'important' needs of the blue-collar proletariat (even though this group is fast disappearing) is a reiteration of the patriarchal heritage of the Labour movement.

Hobsbawm's realigning of the Left which has been reduced by "fundamentalists" and others as merely "electoral pacts with the SDP" and "selling out to Capital," is an attempt to create a new anti-Thatcher "social block" around which the increasing demands of women, black people, lesbians, gay men, young people, pensioners, council tenants and health workers can be met. Opposition to Thatcher's cross-class alliances need to be found, not just as Hobsbawm has said "from people who remember the date of the Saltley picket, but people who remember the date of the Beatles break-up."

The main strength of the campaign by Livingstone and company around the fight for the GLC and local democracy is that it extended the boundaries of traditional support and captured new ground, which the Labour Party in the past has ignored. Similarly David Blunkett's experiment in Sheffield which is based on giving decision-making over to the workforce and involving the community to a point in the running of the city, embodies also a new form of struggle. Potentially it is a challenge to Capital by Labour of greater significance than the nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies, a "sticking to conference decisions" or the creation of a Labour daily.

Geoff Andrews,
Ruskin College,
Oxford.

Sir, — After reading Seumas Milne's attempt to portray the Labour Party's recent history in terms of the Communist Party's internal divisions (December 18) I was reminded of those vulgar marxists who insist in relating every historical event to a change in the economic base, however much that means performing somersaults with the facts.

Mr Milne should have discovered in his investigations that our two major priorities in the coming year are, first, the campaign to win the political fund ballots in the trade unions and, secondly, to encourage Labour local authorities up against rate capping to implement the Party's non-compliance policies.

Why is there no mention of the LCC's ballots conference held only three weeks ago which brought together 450 delegates from a genuine cross section of unions, not just white collar? Other than the miners' strike, it would be harder to think of a sharper "class" issue than fighting to maintain union links to the Labour Party.

If he had checked his facts with us Mr Milne would have discovered that Peter Hain was never active in the National Union of Students and only joined the Labour Party whilst I was a relatively minor NUS officer in the Hampshire and Dorset NUS area. I did go on to chair the National Organisation of Labour Students, but, incidentally, this was when the old Broad Left of communists and left Labour split. To this day NOLS in studeit politics remains separate from the eurocommunists who ally with Liberals.

If he had understood Geoff Hodgson's book The Democratic Economy he would have found a far richer mix of arguments about planning, decentralisation and public ownership than his article suggests.

Of course there are overlaps between the politics of the LCC and those around Marxism Today. Our post-election broadsheet After the Landslide anticipated some of the themes later made more famous by Eric Hobsbawm (though we said rather different things about the Alliance). We do both believe that "Thatcherism" is something new and that the Labour movement needs new ways of winning ideological battles. This does give us points of contact and the common ground for some interesting debates. But there remain major differences, such as over proportional representation.

A rational account of the evolution of political ideas and analysis makes less racy journalism than trying to work out who in Neil Kinnock's private office was at college with whom.

But just as those accounts of the convulsions in the Labour Party after the 1979 defeat that concentate on conspiracies and personalities already seem dated, versions of what has happened in the Labour Party after the even worse defeat in 1983 miss the main point.

After such a historic humiliation there was bound to be a ferment of ideas about why we lost so badly and how we can do much better next time — this explains the divisions, not the activities of this group or the other. Is it naive to think that an attempt to describe the ideas on offer might even make more interesting reading? — Yours sincerely,

Nigel Stanley,
LCC executive member,
57 Sandmere Road,
London SW4.

With charity in mind

Sir,—Richard Gott (Why Aid Should Start at Home, December 7) may perhaps be justified in criticising the style of some of the aid given by the charitable agencies in areas of Africa suffering from famine. But it is unfair to include the generous television viewer in his strictures. It is doubtful if "fading British imperialism or paternalism" ever entered his or her mind.

Nor—deliberately at least—the minds of the agencies. The problems is that acceptance of aid may any time create a dependent relationship, whether we call it "colonial" "imperial" "paternal" or something else. That is what it means to be helpless.

In accepting it, on behalf of its starving people, a Third World Government is not demeaning itself. But the British Government should take much more seriously its responsibility to work, in the community of nations, towards the eradication of such helplessness, so that never again will millions starve while the West records its biggest ever grain harvest.

Michael Mortimere,
Kano, Nigeria.

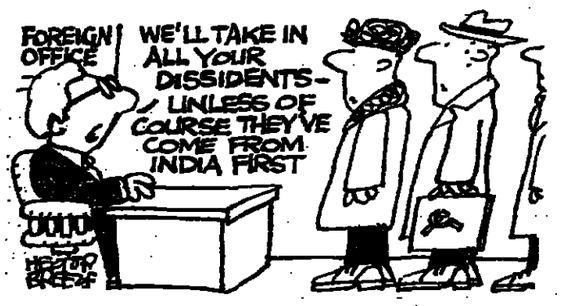
Loved ones waiting at Britain's door

Sir,—The letter (December 19) of David Waddington is to be welcomed as an exercise in futility. Essentially he is attempting to defend the racial and sexual discrimination against fiancés of British citizens by resorting to dubious legal practices, and by keeping silent about the moral questions involved.

Mr Waddington tells us that "the entry clearance officer is principally concerned with the intentions of the man, not the genuineness of the marriage." That is an absurdity; the two considerations are intertwined.

Furthermore, the fiancée who is a British citizen has every right to demand to reside here after her marriage, a right this country is denying to thousands. No doubt when the Foreign Secretary complains to visiting Russians about the deprivation of human rights for a few citizens—as he is absolutely correct in doing—he fails to understand that the same moral principles arise from the Government's policy.

In any case, to make such judgments about "the intentions" of any man requires the wisdom of Solomon. Our entry clearance officers are ill-equipped to carry out such a task. Their training in psychological examination and moral competence is non-existent.



It is good that the Whitehall permanent secretaries are reported in the same issue of the Guardian to be demanding codes of conduct and rights for their members in respect of all matters of maladministration. It is to be hoped that these precepts reach to our overseas posts.

When the entry clearance officer reaches his decision to refuse entry, the appellant has the right of appeal in this country. As I know from my exchanges with David Waddington, the individual concerned will not be allowed into this country to give evidence on his own behalf. Nor can the entry clearance officer be brought to the appeal tribunal. His competence, moral standards, judgment, and experience cannot be examined.

I know of no other court in this or any other democratic country where an appellant has no such rights. It is impossible to conclude that there is any justice in such a situation. It is sad that none of our great legal figures has seen fit to denounce such a monstrous perversion.

I could quote countless numbers of cases from my own constituency where these considerations cause real human misery. I will quote but one.

It concern a business man with two daughters, who want a joint marriage. Their fiancés were cross-examined at length about why I was involved in their case, what my relationship is to the businessman in my constituency and to his family.

Naturally I have taken the strongest exception to such questioning thousands of miles away. I have now received an apology and an indication that the officer concerned has been reprimanded.

Howeven the entry clearance certificates have not been issued yet. If this refusal is maintained, I shall assert that no justice can be done in this case unless the officer concerned is made available to the appeal tribunal.

Denis Howell, MP.
(Lab, Small Heath),
House of Commons.

Bias on the bench

Sir,—David Pannick's discussion of judicial bias (Agenda, December 17) is timely, but I cannot see the logic of his conclusion that the Lord Chief Justice was wrong to stand down at the request of the striking miners who were the appellants in the Divisional Court appeal challenging police use of road blocks to prevent picketing.

On the contrary, Lord Lane showed welcome sensitivity to the natural anxiety of the appellants that his hostility in the earlier bail appeal towards those accused, but not convicted, of offences on the picket line, demonstrated inability to decide their appeal impartially.

All of us, including judges, have political and class prejudices, but the judges have generally been slow to recognise that they can do their job properly only if they understand their prejudices and can overcome them, at least in court. This demands self-examination, some degree of humility towards those with different social or cultural assumptions, and a great deal of restraint.

Geoffrey Bindman,
London NW 1.

A noxious choice over acid rain

Sir, — In your editorial (December 4) you recognised the confused and uncertain nature of the subject of acid rain, but ended (if I have understood you rightly) by concluding that the Central Electricity Generating Board should reduce its "invisible export of noxious gases." I think the reasonable rejoinder is yes, but which.

As I understand the picture, it may well be that, first, both sox (oxides of sulphur) and nox (oxides of nitrogen) must be present before marked damage will be done to vegetation, and second, it is the availability of nox which limits the damage.

If so, reduction in the sox level can give little or no improvement until it reaches the point where it is sox rather than nox which is limiting the rate of damage.

It is therefore quite possible that the reduction in sulphur emission called for by the EEC will have little effect, and this is the chief reason why the CEGB is so unwilling to implement them.

As you note in your editorial, an attack on the nox emissions may be more rewarding. I understand that the Board is examining the possibility of modifying the burners of its fossil-fired stations so as to reduce their nox emissions very substantially, as you also note, this measure alone cannot give a complete answer because of the nox emission from vehicles

It seems to me that if the CEGB (and of course the Scottish Boards) were to be compelled to reduce the sulphur emissions from their existing coal-fired stations very substantially, that would be a political and not a technical decision. There are, of course, arguments for taking it on that basis, but one must ask whether we do want to spend billions with no assurance of any return and with so many other demands.

Finally, it also seems to me that the real impact of acid rain on the nuclear debate is to give potential improvement in the economics of nuclear relative to coal, because of the cost of remedial measures which may be imposed on the latter. When the Board argues that its coal stations are not the prime cause of damage to European forests and lakes, it can hardly be seeking to improve the position of nuclear. — Yours sincerely

(Professor) D. C. Leslie,
Queen Mary College,
University of London.

Open file

Sir,—While the Prime Minister remains obstinate about freedom-of-information *legislation*, Peter Fiddick (The Media Page, December 17) does our cause less than justice when he says there has been "no progress at all towards any sort of freedom of information provision" in 1984.

Only last week you reported that ministers had decided to respond positively to calls by our campaign, and Friends of the Earth, reinforced by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, for an end to environmental secrecy. "The presumption must be in favour of openness in environmental matters."

A number of local authorities, from Bradford in the North to Brent in the South, have decided to implement voluntarily all of the proposals contained in our draft legislation to further open up local authorities.

The Inner London Education Authority has given a firm lead to other authorities with a decision to extend parental access to school files; other local authorities have been persuaded to open up housing files; and some now plan to open up social services files to clients.

The Welsh Water Authority has embarrassed all nine English water authorities by testing a policy of open meetings, and then reaffirming the policy on a permanent basis.

Three of the MPs in the top ten of the private member's ballot in November have decided to introduce freedom-of-information legislation: Robin Squire to open up local authorities; Gerry Bermingham to open up water authorities; and David Madel to open up education authorities.

As Peter Fiddick did acknowledge, the campaign has been able to demonstrate a remarkable consensus behind freedom of information—from former permanent secretaries to senior jurists, from all the Civil Service unions to more than 550 local organisations now affiliated to the Campaign for Freedom of Information.

Of course, these have been *battles* won; the *war* to achieve major legislation remains. Just the same, let's not write off the achievements of 1984—perhaps the main one being that we have established a substantial coalition of more than 50 major organisations with the resources and resolution needed to fight until we win.—Yours faithfully,

Des Wilson,
Chairman, Campaign for Freedom of Information,
London N 1.

The food for thought in a theory of violence

Sir,—Dr Jock Young (Letters, December 6) attacks Alexander Schauss without attempting to examine his proposition. It is unscientific and insular to dismiss, without consideration, a serious case put forward by a conscientious investigator backed by extensive double-blind tests carried out over years.

Schauss, having dealt directly with drug addicts and criminals since 1968, is well aware that crime has many causes, with poverty high on the list. In suggesting that, among these, is an inadequate diet and a poor environment, he is pointing the way to a *positive* approach to certain offenders perpetrating certain types of crimes—particularly those of motiveless violence.

It is true that women are still less likely to be charged with assault or murder — though the incidence is increasing; instead they may turn their violence upon themselves. The recent horrifying incidents of self-mutilation in Holloway could well turn out to have similar springs.

Schauss's standpoint is not new. Fifty years ago Sir Robert McCarrison, in a series of controlled experiments, showed that rats fed on an inadequate diet became not only stunted but also antisocial and aggressive.

Doctors here are increasingly aware of the effects of a poor diet on the central nervous system. As one Devon specialist recently put it: "Individuals who are thus affected are not themselves, and they *know* they're not themselves. They can become vicious, cruel, bloody-minded, quite unable to control themselves: a danger to themselves and others."

We are not in an either/or situation. Helping people here and now is not an alternative to battling against poverty. Indeed, it could positively contribute. Schauss's offer to examine specific violent offenders in British prisons from a nutritional point of view could be a small beginning.

After all, what has the Home Office—or other criminological sceptics—to lose?—Yours faithfully,

Barbara Paterson,
3 Boscombe Road,
London W 12.

Top flight

Sir, — Ms Pearey (Letters, December 17th), is of course quite right about the potential of Manchester Airport but I am a little puzzled by the apparent implication that we have never had these international services.

For many years, from the Fifties to the Seventies we had daily scheduled services from Ringway to such places as New York, Toronto, Montreal and, if memory serves correctly, Chicago. For many years I travelled regularly on the Manchester/Montreal and Manchester/New York BOAC services which were *always* well over the 60 per cent load factor.

If such services were viable then, why are they not now. It could not, surely, be connected with the fact that Manchester Airport is a creation of and run by Manchester itself and not by a British Airports Authority interested more in its own aggrandisement. — Yours sincerely,

Cedric S. Sumner,
Buck Farm, Hanmer, Clwyd.

Miscellany at large

Dear Santa Claus, — don't bother with the mink (I'm vegetarian) or the chocolates (I'm slimming). But if you could just stop off at the Guardian office and persuade them to stop printing the crossword puzzles back to back on the same page, I'll believe in you for ever. Surely in the season of goodwill the Editor could make a small contribution to reducing family friction? Yours sincerely,

Jean Robinson.
Oxford.

Sir,—In the Guardian's television listings (December 17) Sandy Smithies refers to AIDS as "the gay plague." I find this language offensive. True, most AIDS sufferers and fatalities have been among gay men (no lesbians affected yet, I understand), but that doesn't make AIDS a "gay disease." In the US 71 per cent of AIDS cases have occurred in gay men, while in New York the proportion of gay men in the AIDS figures is down to 60 per cent.

The evidence suggests that AIDS is most likely African in its origin; why not "AIDS the African Plague." Certainly, many thousands of people in Africa are ill and dying as a result of AIDS. Gay men, and many others suffer from AIDS. It's insulting to associate AIDS with any one group of sufferers.—Yours faithfully,

Gordon Fryer,
London N 7.

Sir, — George Best's three-month sentence was not levied because he drinks too much and is famous, as your editorial (December 19) suggests, but because he was convicted of drunken driving and assault. Drunken drivers are potential, and often, actual, murderers. Perhaps it would be more helpful for you to suggest alternative deterrents for such people, if you feel imprisonment to be too harsh.

Penelope A. Ashby (Mrs).
Sidford, East Devon.

How pay defines democracy



Sir,—The economist Sir E.D. Simon published in 1939 a small work entitled The Smaller Democracies — a social and economic study of the Scandinavian countries, in the hope of establishing some facts from which we could draw useful lessons for our own democracy.

He published figures showing the whole time earnings of representative persons in England, Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland and identified the range of earnings between the rich and the poor in each country.

As the unit of measurement he took the male road sweeper as the lowest earner and a judge in the Supreme Court at the top of the scale. In 1938 the ratio of earnings of the highest paid to the lowest paid in Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland was less than 7 to 1, whereas in England the ratio was 35 to 1. A judge in England was therefore worth 35 times that of a road sweeper whereas in Sweden and Switzerland, the judge was worth less than six road sweepers.

I note today that the chief executive of BOC is to receive for his services in 1984 £770,000. In contrast the Royal College of Nursing has stated that a qualified nurse earns from £4,000 to £5,000 per annum.

Is it conceivable that a company director's contribution to the welfare of our democratic society is worth more than 150 times that contrfbuted by a qualified nurse?—Yours truly,

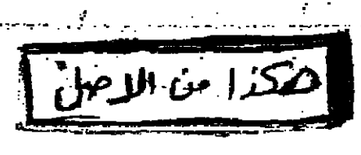
(Dr) Harold Rose,
38 Wood Vale,
London N 10.

A COUNTRY DIARY

LONGDENDALE: The wind came whistling in, crashing against the blackened gritstone cliff at our feet. With it came threads of white mist, whizzing by like froth blown off a big river. Sunlight gleamed far below, where the Greenfield brook showed through the cloud. We had come over from Crowden to Chew and saw now, as the wreaths of silver vapour parted, a pike of stones which is the memorial to two local climbers who lost their lives in 1972 while descending the second Scila Tower. Mist still raced by as we went along the crest above Dove Stone Edge and Dean Rocks. These have long been the Mancunian's beloved crags, soot-encrusted and rough textured so that most folk returned home after a day here looking like chimneysweeps. A curtain was raised temporarily and we could see the blackened silhouette of Jame Platt's Celtic cross, the memorial to an August day in 1857 when the MP for Oldham was silhouette of James Platt's ers carried him down to Ashway Gap House — his brother's country seat — but he died a couple of days later. It must have been prophetic, for now Ashway Gap House is no more, recently demolished close beside the new Dove Stone reservoir. We turned the corner beyond Ashway Rocks and the Ravenstones were directly below us. George Bower was one of the pioneers here, discovering soon after 1930 the very severe Wedgewood Crack — named after the instructions he shouted down to his follower — Albert Wood. This coarse grit crag lacks sunlight at the best of times, but in this season it is especially gloomy. Looking down to the muddy waters or out across the chocolate prospect of Middle Edge Moss made me wish heartily for a hard frost, blue skies, and new snow.

ROGER A. REDFERN







هكذا من الاصل

WEEKEND SPORT

David Lacey — QPR 0, Liverpool 2

QPR caught in Christmas Rush hour

SOCCER

LIVERPOOL, looking more like the champions they are, rose to fifth place in the First Division with an impressive 2-0 victory against Queen's Park Rangers at Shepherd's Bush last night. Wark gave them a half-time lead with his 12th goal of the season and Rush scored the second on the hour, Walsh later lobbing the ball against the bar. It was only QPR's second home defeat of the season.

While QPR's need for points was no less pressing, the main significance of last night's match was that it gave Liverpool an opportunity to breathe down the backs of the top four teams over Christmas. The champions could hardly be said to have found their normal stride but they arrived at the Bush having won five and drawn two of their previous eight League fixtures.

Moreover, Lawrenson was back in their defence, and although Dalglish continued to be kept out by a back injury, Walsh and Rush were given a further chance to forge what on paper looked a scoring partnership of prolific potential. Not that there was much needed evidence of this as the pair found themselves being tracked down by QPR's new sweeper system which, under the renewed stewardship of Frank Sibley has replaced the monotonously effective offside trap.

The need for closer marking by the centre-backs has already done for Wicks, a member of the old pivotal school of centre-halves. For all that, it was some time before either attack managed a movement of sufficient accuracy and penetration to punish any sort of defence.

The two sets of midfields locked horns and little of consequence was emerging. A curling free kick from Molby was seen and held at the near post by Hucker and a little later the Dane combined with Wark and Nicol in a movement which ended with the QPR goalkeeper dealing with a brisk shot from Walsh.

However, by midway through the first half the television audience must have been contemplating switching channels to Wildlife On Two as a break from Still Life On One.

Just in time, on the half-hour, Liverpool came close to taking the lead. A burst down the right by Johnston turned QPR's flank and Wark met his dipping centre with only Hucker to beat. However he slipped in the moment of shooting and put the ball wide.

Nevertheless a goal for Liverpool was not far away. Nine minutes before half-time Lawrenson dispossessed Neill and sent Rush away on the left. As he approached the 18-yard line the Welshman slipped a finely-angled pass through the defence to Walsh who could not control the ball first time but let it run to Wark, who scored with an excellent shot low into the far corner of the net.

The longer the game progressed the more attuned did Liverpool become to the pace of the artificial pitch. They let the ball do the work which is always the best policy on this sort of surface provided the passes are accurate. Shots from Molby and Wark went sufficiently close for QPR to come in at half-time a little grateful that they were only one goal behind.

QPR: Hucker; Neill, Dawes, Waddock, Chivers, Fenwick, McDonald, Stewart, Bannister, Stainrod, Gregory.

Liverpool: Grobbelaar; Neal, Kennedy, Lawrenson, Nicol, Hansen, Walsh, Molby, Rush, Johnson, Wark.

Referee: B. Hill (Northants).

● Phil Hughes, Leeds's 20-year-old Northern Irish goalkeeper, makes his first appearance of the season at Wolves today in place of the injured David Harvey.

● Paul Agnew, the Irish Youth captain, plays for Grimsby against Middlesbrough today.



WARK: Liverpool opener

Matthew Engel reports from Gauhati

Take the wickets and run

CRICKET

ENGLAND's miraculous week continued in Gauhati yesterday, when the apparently straightforward job of bowling out East Zone a second time for victory was accomplished more spectacularly than anyone could have imagined.

The result was delayed by five dropped catches and a last wicket stand bigger than anything else in the innings. Even so East Zone were still all out for 52 just before lunch, and England won by an innings and 121 with a day and two-thirds to spare.

Just as the defeats in Ahmedabad and Bombay were accompanied by all kinds of gruesome statistical sidebars, there were aspects of this straight out of believe it or not. This was England's first win over an Indian Zone since 1963-64 (the 20 intervening matches have all been drawn) and it was the lowest score against an MCC or England team in India since 1933-34 (Rajputana 32 all out at Ajmer, as everyone no doubt remembers).

It was a stunning morning's cricket and England will attack the strange rituals of a touring Christmas with all the more gusto for it. They have only one day's play, a one-day international on Thursday, between now and the third test on New Year's eve. However, though the wicket was still difficult and the bowling, from the mixed bag of Foster and Edmonds, most business like.

The major factor was the ineptitude of the East Zone batsmen, which was way below anything England have seen so far or are likely to see again at least until the next time they pass this way, or the fixtures against the Cape Mounted Rifles and such like are restored to the international calendar.

Dilip Doshi, the East Zone captain, apologised to Mike Gatting for his team's batting performance, which he described as "very poor indeed." Doshi also added a shaft against the East Zone selectors, who habitually refuse to consult the captain about who ought to play. They were thus unable to get his opinion that there were two or three better batsmen available than those who were picked. Even leaving aside the talented Pronob Roy, who three years ago was opening for India with Gavaskar but is now barely able to scrape together enough runs to stay in the Bengal team.

For Gatting, it was an extraordinary way to start what may or may not turn into a career as England captain. Had Gower not just won the Test match, one might be tempted to invite him to spend a little longer photographing tigers. But it is necessary to enter a small caveat: the decision to go for a quick kill and enforce the follow-on appears to have been taken largely because the players did not much care for Gauhati and wanted to get the hell out of there, which they will now do today, 24 hours early.

Several England batsmen might well have benefited from another innings, especially as they are going to spend so much time in the next week kicking their heels. Gauhati is both beautiful and friendly and it is unclear to me why anyone not obliged to cope with its abominable communications system to make a living should hate the place so much, unless they really have gone soft.

Against taht, one has criticised touring teams before for over-doing the practice at the expense of the match and, as Gatting pointed out, beating any side is good for a team's morale, and England's is now very high indeed. Perhaps they should play more teams like East Zone. They did not so much follow on as fall over.

At the start, two batsmen contrived to give catches to Cowdrey off Foster off successive balls: Arun Lal, the one real threat, flicked to shortish square leg. Then Mitra came in, Cowdrey moved in, and took a second catch at much shorter leg.

Next Cowans had Jayaprakash lbw, after which England's catching trouble began. Bharadwaj walked to the crease on a king pair, and almost managed it—but Lamb put him down at slip. In so far as anything mattered, this did, as Bharadwaj, with a few forthright shots and a bit of luck, managed to score 30. The next highest score was eight.

Lamb dropped three catches, Gatting one and Fowler one. Normally they are about the best in a good fielding side. Perhaps they were over-excited. If everything had been held, East Zone could have been 12 for six and who knows what pathetic score all out. As it was, after Edmonds had laid waste most of the later batsmen, the last man Kumar showed more aptitude than some and stayed with Bharadwaj to put on 14 whole runs.

The mist was starting to clear from the hills and lunch was three balls away when Bharadwaj tried to attack Marks and missed. Well, you cannot do much better than bowl a team out for 52. However, it is not a figure that can ever have entirely happy associations for English cricket. At the Oval in 1948, Bradman's last Test, it was England's total.

England's memories from Gauhati should get happier as recollections of the odd personal discomfort recede. The three biggest successes were fringe players, Fowler, Foster and Marks. Foster now looks a certainty for the one-day match at Cuttack, and a good performance there should get him his Test place back. Fowler's position within the team is now much more secure after his century. For that he received the man-of-the-match award of precisely 3,001 rupees. Figures ending in nought are supposed to be unlucky.

For poor old Doshi, though, there is only gloom and doom. He is one of the most affable men in cricket, as people from about half-a-dozen English counties, major and minor, will know. He is still bowling well enough to challenge for a Test place, but seems out of favour with the establishment.

Yesterday, the spectators shouted (if my Assamese interpreter serves me well) "Doshi out" and "bring on Central Zone," a reference to the East's refusal to make their team a joint one. However, the political tension, which some Indians thought would result from the visit to Assam, was wholly absent.

ENGLAND. — First innings: 290 (S. Fowler 144; Kumar five for 87).
EAST ZONE. — First innings 117 (Mark four for 48).

EAST ZONE. — Second innings (Overnight 1 for no wkt)

K. Dubey c sitting b Foster	8
Arun Lal c Cowdrey b Foster	2
A. Mitra c Cowdrey b Foster	0
A. Jayaprakash lbw Cowans	0
A. Bharadwaj b Marks	30
A. Das b Edmonds	3
R. Deora c Gatting b Edmonds	0
Richhirsingh run out	0
A. Sinha st French b Edmonds	0
D. Doshi b Edmonds	0
A. Kumar not out	6
Extras (b1)	1
Total	52

Fall of wickets: 3, 3, 12, 14, 17, 27, 37, 38, 38.
Bowling: Foster 15-6-32-3; Cowans 6-3-4-1; Edmonds 9-3-13-4; Marks 0.4-0-2-1.
England won by an innings and 121 runs.



KAPIL DEV: Extrovert

Kapil bandwagon gathers pace

THE CHANCES that Kapil Dev, India's fallen hero, will be restored to the Test team appear to be growing. Kapil's crucial meeting with Indian Board members has been put back from today to Christmas Day, but it has become clear that both Sunil Gavaskar, his captain and rival, and the board president, N. K. P. Salve, will be in attendance. Salve may well try and knock their heads together.

Various conflicting official statements are emerging about whether Kapil was dropped, after 66 consecutive Tests, for cricketing or disciplinary reasons. But everyone in Indian cricket is convinced that the decision is primarily the result of a long-standing personality clash between Kapil and Gavaskar, exacerbated by the attitude of each of them when the other has been in charge.

It is a classic confrontation: the introverted, thoughtful Gavaskar v. the extrovert Kapil; sophisticated Bombayite v. more earthy North Indian; old master v. young hustler. In English cricket, the personality difference between Brearley and Botham was turned, spectacularly, to advantage. Neither Kapil nor Gavaskar is quite the force he was, but it seems improbable that India can prosper in the immediate future unless the pair of them are fit, flourishing, and something like friends.

Slogans saying "No Kapil—no Test" have reportedly started to appear on walls in Calcutta, and the local papers are full of pro-Kapil letters. Test matches there are better supported than anywhere else in the world, and if attendance for the third Test on December 31 drops the way it did in Bombay and Delhi, it would be a disaster, both financial and psychological, for Indian cricket.

Matthew Engel

A CHANGE OF SCENE FOR TWO ENGLAND CRICKETERS WITH AN INDOMITABLE FRAME OF MIND

Steele soldiering into the sunset

A HEARTFELT valediction from the pulpit to David Steele, who announced his retirement yesterday, will set him shaking his grey head and wincing as he looks down at his shoes in the front row.

It is almost statutory to say be will be remembered for just one Test match — his first against Australia at Lord's in 1975 — even though that is not the whole story. He played in eight consecutive home Tests against Australia and the West Indies — then both in swaggeringly ferocious pomp — and never once flinched.

It was a truly heroic and very human chapter in which David Steele tapped the sporting adrenalin of the whole nation. Yet, having weathered the fearful gales, he was then peremptorily put out to grass with a Test match batting average of 42 — exactly the same as that of Ian Chappell and Cyril Washbrook, only a couple of pegs below Cowdrey and Graveney, and miles ahead of the likes of Woolley, Trumper or Bill Edrich.

Steele must have felt disappointed when he was dropped for the 1977 tour of India. Characteristically he would have moaned only to the nearest short-leg, but his legion of supporters, which included by then a considerable lobby of housewives who couldn't tell lbw from PVC, gave voice.

The romantics, though, preferred him to leave on a high — the Indian spinners might well have shattered the image — and he waddled back to the county grind, garlanded with affection and remaining for ever the personification of that authoritative yeoman's pronouncement by Cliff Gladwin, another North-Midland pro, who made the all-time anthologies with "Cometh the hour, Cometh the man."

In the mid-summer of '75, England's batting was yet again in shreds. They were laid to waste in the first Test and amid wholesale changes, Tony Greig was made captain for Lord's. The beanpole pragmatist called for Northamptonshire's eminent and very grise, bespectacled, obscure Jude.

England batted. Lillian Thomson was at her most catty, cruel and spiteful. The openers went at once, and it was 20 for two when Steele, his favourite moth-eaten old towel elastic-handed to his left thigh inside his trousers, gave a last polish to his glasses, picked up his bat and plodded, heavy-footed, down the stairs.

Of course, he had never been in the home dressing room before, so he went down two flights of stairs instead of one and ended up in the members' loo. Outside, meanwhile, 25,000 people were waiting.

When finally he emerged and clomped to the wicket all that was missing was the ARP helmet. The writer, Clive Taylor, described the entrance memorably: "The bank clerk goes to war."

Later that year David told me about it when he collected his BBC Personality of the Year trophy. As he reached the wicket Thomson said to his colleagues "Who the hell is this guy? Groucho Marx?" Steele simply said "Mornin'" and took guard, two-legs, as he always did.

The first two balls from Lillee were devilish. As he prepared to face them, Steele muttered to himself, over and over again, "Watch the ball, watch the ball." He played both deliveries immaculately straight down into his boots — and swept the next for four to release an explosion of pent-up sound from the crowd that could be heard in Baker Street.

He ended with a valiant half-century which made the headlines on News at Ten ... as he did through that summer. He became a national celebrity. Knots of people would cluster round the TV rental shops in every high street, asking "is Steele still in?" Usually he was, playing forward. Industrialists like John Moores of Littlewoods sent him cheques and butchers sent him free steaks.

Next summer the rustic epic continued. When he made a century against the West Indies at Trent Bridge I cannot remember such a cheer at a cricket match. He wiped his glasses and all Nottingham found themselves rubbing their eyes.

Now he is planning to accept a good offer to go overseas. So, after 21 years of admiration around the provincial paddocks of England — 500 games, 22,346 runs, 623 wickets and 546 catches — he will be plodding away just as he came into our consciousness those nine years ago — with that rolling gait of a strangely-armoured infantryman: jaw jutting, eyes slightly bewildered behind glinting specs, pad straps dangling, front foot forward.

Thanks for the memory, Mr Steele. The way you touched your cap, the way you played for tea . . . no, no, they can't take that away from me.

Frank Keating



BULLDOG SPIRIT displayed by David Steele (above), scourge of the Australians, and Trevor Jesty, whose England career has been less fortunate



Jesty finished with Hampshire

TREVOR JESTY has always seen himself as a man more sinned against than sinning, and the latest acrimonious turn in his career will have done little to alter his opinion.

Yesterday Hampshire County Cricket Club agreed to his release. Eighteen seasons of loyal service from the dependable all-rounder — half his life — were at an end.

Not surprisingly, Jesty, now 36, feels bitter. "If they had told me the real reason I might be prepared to stay on, but they have been dishonest with me," he said.

Reason? Dishonest? It sounds more like yapping Yorkshire than homely Hampshire. But that is how Jesty sees it; as a power struggle in miniature. Towards the end of last season Nick Pocock announced his retirement from the captaincy and Mark Nicholas was given control.

Jesty, as vice captain, agreed to help the bright young buck, nine years his junior, but since the end of the season has been seeking an answer as to why Nicholas "leapfrogged" over him, the senior professional.

He thought that Hampshire, who have given the captaincy to Nicholas fulltime, were fobbing him off, and now the matter has come to a head.

Jesty reasoned that Hampshire wanted to avoid Yorkshire-type in-fighting: "If they had released me at the end of October, the members may have got together and started a row." He believes the county thought that qualms would be dispelled amid Christmas apathy.

Jesty, who was passed over when Pocock became captain, says: "Mark has never skippered a side. It definitely seems like the old school tie to me." (Like Pocock, Nicholas is an ex-public schoolboy, whereas Jesty went to a seondary modern school in his home town of Gosport).

"I thought it had changed with people like Gatting and Botham. As vice captain I was good enough to help him out with my advice and experience and I can't see how I am not good enough to be captain.

"Perhaps I don't have enough initials in my name; it's a bit of a handicap having only two. But I have nothing against Mark, it is the Hampshire committee I cannot now play for."

While T. E. Jesty is often seen as being bitter — at his failure to win the captaincy and, narrowly, an England cap — Hampshire followers will see it as a failure by the committee.

Hampshire say they accepted Jesty's request to leave with regret. "Every effort has been made to keep him over the last few months," said secretary Jimmy James.

"Some very capable former players have been slung overboard," was the assessment of Hampshire's most famous supporter, John Arlott, of the Hampshire committee. Upon his retirement, it may be remembered, Arlott was honoured by Somerset and others but not by Hampshire.

The latest episode in the county's bad man-management will be seen by the cynical supporter as natural wastage. They have Greenidge and Marshall returning next season and two South African batsmen in Chris and Robin Smith. Paul Terry, Nicholas and John Hardy are emerging as promising batsmen and Nicholas himself is becoming a useful medium-pace bowler, Jesty's stock-in-trade.

Things might have been different had Jesty gained a deserved England place against Pakistan during 1982, his benefit and best year, when his beautiful strokemaking brought him eight centuries, the most for Hampshire since Phil Mead in 1933, and often enough to win a cap.

He was one of Wisden's five cricketers of the year, but his medium-pace outswingers were not seen as penetrative enough, though he was second Englishman in the national averages that year. It was the year of Ian Greig and Derek Pringle.

But that year he did replace the injured Derek Randall on England's tour of Australia and in his first one-day international dismissed Kim Hughes for nought and had David Hookes dropped first ball. He also scored two useful half centuries.

For the perpetual nearly man it was a case of what might have been, but at least he got his England sweater. In all, he played 11 one-day internationals and was a member of last year's World Cup squad.

For Hampshire, whom he helped win the County Championship in 1973, he scored 14,753 runs and took 475 wickets. Now the talk is that after 18 years—"the majority have been happy"—he will go either to Sussex or Nottinghamshire. It is a sad departure for "Jets", the last Hampshire-born player in the Hampshire team.

Ian Ridley

Martyn Williams

Welsh shocked as Watkins drops out

RUGBY UNION

MIKE WATKINS, the 32-year-old captain of Wales, has shocked the Welsh selectors by announcing he is giving up international rugby.

The Newport hooker, who led the side for the fourth time when they were crushed 28-9 by Australia a month ago, says he is quitting international rugby due to a combination of work, family and Newport club commitments.

Watkins, a combative hooker, made his decision known only hours after being named in a squad of 30 for the five-nations championship starting next month.

"It would have been nice to have been told beforehand," said the WRU selection chairman, Rod Morgan, forgetting that a few players have complained in the past years that their demise had been heard on the radio before official notification. Watkins's reasons for retiring, announced through a solicitor (itself an unusual Welsh precedent) are genuine. No mention is made of the Australian defeat, which has prompted a severe post mortem in Wales.

Indeed the man who was brought in as captain for his first game after another humiliation in Romania, has been under the microscope. Newport have not been motivated this season, and it was the one major ingredient missing in the last Welsh performance.

As a hooker, Watkins is as good as any; as captain he may well have felt that his position was under greater challenge. Why he chose to make this dramatic announcement shortly after being chosen for the national squad is a mystery. He evaded all attempts to contact him yesterday.

Watkins's elevation into the Welsh team came late, but he enjoyed the limelight. As a mischievous and comical infusion into the serious business of Welsh rugby life he stole the show. Yet he was always aware that misdemeanours off the field had denied him earlier recognition. He was suspended from both the Wales B and Cardiff teams, and rehabilitation came after the five-year period in the wilderness.

His fellow players in the Welsh team are as mystified as anyone. "I waved to him on the motorway shortly before this squad was announced," said Eddie Butler, the man who handed the captaincy to Watkins.

"Sure, there is pressure from the media, matches and training sessions, but when you are winning the captaincy of Wales is the most magnificent job in the world, but when you've been thrashed, the public immediately plummet you into depression. I know, because I've been down there. Mike may have had enough because he is 32 years old. I was young and willing to prove them wrong."

The departure of Watkins gives the selectors a dual replacement problem, that of captain and hooker. If Terry Holmes recovers in time, the problem might solve itself, if he does not there will be more pressure on the selectors to recall Gareth Davies to Welsh colours and the captaincy. That would indeed be a remarkable development. A replacement hooker for the squad will be announced soon, after the selectors have spoken to Watkins. That is, if they find him.

RUGBY UNION

Charles Edwards

Dean has to prove his worth

Today's Irish final trial at Lansdowne Road will provide a considerable challenge for Paul Dean, fly half on the Whites, or senior side. In the eyes of many, he was the man unjustly and unexpectedly favoured by the national selectors ahead of Tony Ward for last month's match against Australia.

His performance on that day was adequate, if hardly remarkable. Early, his line-kicking was dangerously wayward; later, he managed to put his kick to touch away, though never achieving any great length. However, the selectors can say Dean did the task for which he was chosen: to get his line moving, for seldom in recent years has Ireland had a three quarter line of such quality.

Against Australia, Ireland moved the ball from scrum half to wing a total of seven times; which hardly measured up to the Australian average, but compared favourably with last season, when the Irish achieved this basic feat only six times in four international matches.

Dean, like the Whites' team in general, gets another chance to prove his worth as a distributor this afternoon. The Whites differ in only two positions compared to the side beaten by the Australians: Michael Kearnan moves to the centre from left wing, where Keith Crossan, who cried off against Australia, returns as the other centre, Moss Finn, drops down to the junior side.

The loose-head prop, Finn Orr, who won his 44th consecutive cap last month, is relegated, as Paul Kennedy of Ulster comes into the Whites. But Orr may be expected to regain his place against England next month, and for him this afternoon's demotion is more of a challenge by the selectors than anything else.

The selectors will be watching with interest the somewhat makeshift senior back row they put on duty against Australia. In particular, the performance of Ronan Karney, normally a flanker, will be closely monitored; Willie Duggan and Donal Spring, generally regarded as the two best specialist No. 8s in the country, wait in the wings. Like them, Ward will not be participating today, which is not to say he will not be a contender when the selectors choose their side this evening.

Significantly, there has not been a single drop-out since the announcement of the teams a fortnight ago. Not too many players can be assured of places at this stage of the game; a trial of determination and the will to succeed is indicated.

David Frost

Scottish eyes on Kennedy

While Ireland, alone among the four home countries, are holding a national trial, today's inter-district match at Myreside between Edinburgh and the Anglo-Scots could provide significant pointers for the Scottish selectors, pondering Scotland's defeat by the Wallabies and preparing for the five-nations tournament.

Unlike Glasgow and the South of Scotland, neither Edinburgh nor the Anglo-Scots had a fixture against the Australians. The selectors today have a chance to see whether Euan Kennedy, who captains Edinburgh, has recovered form after injury, and to seek confirmation of the progress made by Stuart Johnston, the scrum-half who is a brother of David Johnston, the international centre.

It is unfortunate that Iain Milne is not available to prop for the Anglo-Scots, but Bill Cuthbertson will be there as captain and, among those likely to get a cap before long is Gavin Hastings, the Cambridge University full-back, who used to play for Edinburgh and has played recently for Scotland B. The form of Jim Pollock, the Gosforth wing, will also be closely watched.

Scotland do not have a match on the first five-nations Saturday, January 19. Their B side do, however, meet France B at Aberdeen that day. Their first full international in 1985 is against Ireland at Murrayfield on February 2.

The Anglos, having defeated the North and Midlands 25-7 last weekend, are by no means out of the running for the inter-district championship. However, the South, who beat Edinburgh last weekend but who do not have a game today, remain favourites to retain their title.

New Zealand Schools, having comfortably won the first international of their tour, against Scotland at Murrayfield last weekend, today meet Wales at Cardiff Arms Park. This game will kick off at one o'clock.

HOCKEY: The England indoor team, playing as the Roses, were beaten last night in their first match since the side was rebuilt. They went down 6-5 to Firebrands on the opening evening of the Roses tournament at Yate, *writes Pat Rowley*.

David Lacey analyses the crucial holiday programme and, below, sums up the championship chances of the four leading teams

Festive topping for all season

SOCCER

ONLY THREE times in the last 10 seasons have the team either leading the First Division into the New Year, or leading it after the matches on New Year's Day, failed to win the championship.

The exceptions have been Manchester City, who were top at the beginning of 1982 but saw the title go to Anfield. Liverpool, who began 1981 as leaders but were overtaken by Aston Villa, and Ipswich, who strode ahead in 1975 but finished behind Derby County.

This season could see another break in the sequence. Two points separate a group of four clubs at the top of the First Division and in terms of championship potential there is little to choose between them.

Everton have led the League for seven weeks without setting a remarkable pace, but if consistency is to be the decisive factor then they have a lot going for them. Tottenham also come into this category now that they have come to rely more on the workers in the team rather than the fitful, and only partly-fit, stars.

On paper Manchester United have the best-looking side and they have the opportunity, over Christmas and the New Year, to dispel the impression that they have not got the consistency over 90 minutes, let alone nine months, to win the title.

At least United seem to have banished draws from their system. Their first four fixtures ended this way but in 15 First Division matches since then they have drawn only once. A year ago three draws out of four holiday games, the last at Anfield, prevented United from offering a stronger challenge to Liverpool.

Arsenal will be content merely to hold their position among the leading four. If they do slip Southampton, keeping up in spite of the disputes between Lawrie McMenemy and two of his England players, Steve Williams and Mark Wright, could well go above them.

Their Christmas programme is a repeat of last year and if they achieve the same results they will win at West Ham this afternoon and beat Watford at The Dell on Boxing Day. A couple of potentially awkward matches against Sheffield Wednesday and Leicester City follow, but eight points out of 12 would not be a bad percentage and Southampton should be aiming for this as par for the holiday.

Any number of teams in the First Division's broad middle band are capable of upsetting the aims of those above them and Norwich City, after ending Everton's long winning sequence in the League, may cause problems for both Spurs and Arsenal.

However, Liverpool are still the side that the four leaders fear most. They went into last night's match against Queen's Park Rangers slightly better placed than they were after Christmas in 1981, when they lay 12th in the table, 10 points behind the top club, Manchester City. Needless to say Liverpool won the title.

This time the leadership appears better equipped to withstand a New Year charge from Anfield and given the uncertainties that continue to weigh Liverpool down from time to time there must be more than a little doubt about whether in fact this will be forthcoming.

The holiday matches offer scant hope for those at the bottom of the First Division. After meeting Sheffield Wednesday, Manchester United and Queen's Park Rangers poor old Stoke face a crucial relegation game at Coventry, although in their case the argument is already looking academic.

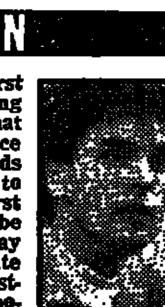
Luton, whose chances of a prosperous Christmas have already been blighted by Tuesday's home defeat against West Bromwich Albion, face Coventy on Boxing Day — a match the importance of which should stir even their apathetic support. If they fail to win this game David Pleat's side will not travel to Liverpool and Everton overburdened by optimism.

Coventry, Aston Villa, Watford and Ipswich are in urgent need of points but this looks like being another of those seasons when a club well placed at Christmas suddenly find themselves confronted with the prospect of relegation in the spring. West Ham's recent poor run — only one win in seven League games, five of which have not brought them a goal — suggests that they may fall into this category.

It will be surprising if Oxford United are not leading the Second Division again by the New Year. They have a hard match at Portsmouth today but then play three of the sides at present in the bottom half-dozen — Cardiff, Crystal Palace and Middlesbrough.

Blackburn Rovers, who lead Oxford by three points but have played two matches more, face a much harder programme — Carlisle away tomorrow followed by the Yorkshire trilogy of Leeds United, Huddersfield and Barnsley.

EVERTON



Graeme Sharp

EVERTON have led the First Division since the beginning of November and know that if they can hold their place until the New Year the odds against the title returning to Goodison Park for the first time since 1970 will be shorter still. Their holiday programme looks moderate but could test their consistency. Chelsea, their opponents at Goodison today, have yet to win away in the League but have drawn twice as many away matches as they have lost. The visit to Sunderland on Boxing Day looks like being Everton's most difficult game but they should take maximum points from the fixtures with Ipswich and Luton. The loss of Adrian Heath from the attack will surely send Howard Kendall scurrying into the transfer market before long but Graeme Sharp's return to scoring form this season, allied to his creative capabilities, has given Everton the cutting edge tey needed to gain full benefit

POINTS: 37. Goal difference: +17.
HOLIDAY PROGRAMME—Today: Chelsea (home). Boxing Day: Sunderland (away). December 29: Ipswich (away). New Year's Day: Luton (home).

TOTTENHAM



Gary Stevens

TOTTENHAM face a sequence of matches which will make new demands on the durability which has been evident in the team over the last few weeks. Norwich, Spurs' opponents this afternoon, are on something of a high. They are unbeaten at home and in Channon, Deehan, Donowa and Mendham have precisely that mixture of youth and experience which can sustain a side over a long period. The derby matches against West Ham and Arsenal will be laws unto themselves so far as form is concerned and Sunderland knocked Tottenham out of the Milk Cup at White Hart Lane just over a fortnight ago. At least Spurs know that if they take half of the number of chances that went begging in that match they should win this time. The success of Tottenham's Christmas and New Year is going to depend heavily on Mark Falco maintaining his latest burst of scoring and Gary Stevens continuing his excelent form in midfield.

POINTS: 36. Goal diff.: +20.
HOLIDAY PROGRAMME. — Today: Norwich City (away). Boxing Day: West Ham Utd (home). December 29: Sunderland (home). New Year's Day: Arsenal (away).

MANCHESTER UNITED



Mark Hughes

MANCHESTER UNITED have not actually led the First Division yet, but their depth of strength, the outstanding qualities of Bryan Robson and Jesper Olsen, Gordon Strachan's industry and occasional inspiration, Mark Hughes's prodigious talent and the promise shown by Frank Stapleton on his return still make them strong contenders for the title. They have the easier - looking programme and will be disappointed not to take nine points from the games against Ipswich, Stoke and Sheffield Wednesday. Chelsea, with David Speedie back after suspension, may be hard to stop at Stamford Bridge a week today but provided the other matches are United should remain well up in the field as they enter the New Year. However they are still bedevilled by defensive problems, especially at centre-back, and if the Mark Wright affair at Southampton really is settled Ron Atkinson will have to search elsewhere for reinforcements.

POINTS 35. Goal difference: +14.
HOLIDAY PROGRAMME.—Today: Ipswich (home). Boxing Day: Stoke (away). December 29: Chelsea (away). New Year's Day: Sheffield Wednesday (home).

ARSENAL



Paul Mariner

AFTER FOUR successive defeats in the League Arsenal look the team most likely to slip back into the pack over the holiday. Their programme is as difficult as that faced by Tottenham, perhaps more so. Arsenal will make things even harder for themselves if they fail to overcome Watford's eager, positive chalenge at Highbury this afternoon. Like Spurs they have to encounter Ken Brown's ebullient Norwich team: then they face the daunting prospect of a trip to Newcastle followed by the confrontation with Tottenham on the morning of New Year's Day. Arsenal's ideal Christmas would see Steve Williams of Southampton dropping gift-wrapped into their midfield. With their initial attacking plan foundering on the fall from race of Charlie Nicholas, Arsenal are now relying on the honest artisans, Brian Talbot and Ian Allinson, Stewart Robson's energy and Paul Mariner's experience to keep their hopes buoyant.

POINTS: 35. Goal diff.: +13.
HOLIDAY PROGRAMME. — Today: Watford (home). Boxing Day: Norwich City (away). December 29: Newcastle Utd (away). New Year's Day: Tottenham (home).

Robert Armstrong on today's League programme

Draw specialists on the march



JONES: Back for Chelsea

While Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur held the limelight by setting the pace at the top of the First Division, newly-promoted Chelsea have steadily built a useful platform from which to launch a title challenge that could tilt the balance of power from North to West London in the new year.

John Neal's side have a tough holiday programme with Everton, QPR, Manchester United and Nottingham Forest in prospect, but good results against the Northern clubs may enable Chelsea to overtake the leaders if they also drop points elsewhere.

Arsenal, United and Tottenham have all failed in turn to defeat Chelsea on their own ground—each game ended 1-1—so there is no reason why Neal's players should fear today's meeting with Everton at Goodison Park. The League leaders overcame Chelsea by a single goal in a dreary, televised game at Stamford Bridge earlier this season but away form is likely to be just as relevant today. Chelsea have drawn six of their nine away games.

Howard Kendall has been forced to make one change in defence, recalling Bailey to replace Van den Hauwe who begins a two-match suspension that means he will miss the Boxing Day game at Sunderland. Chelsea's only change is also at left-back where Joey Jones makes his first appearance of the season in place of Rougvie (leg injury).

Charlie Nicholas looks set to replace the injured Davis (pulled hamstring) in the Arsenal midfield for the game against Watford at Highbury. The Scottish international, who has missed three games after being dropped by Don Howe, could be joined on his return by O'Leary.

The Irishman has resumed training after missing last week's win over West Bromwich with a thigh strain. However, the same injury could cause another defender, Sansom, to drop out if he fails a fitness test today. Meade, a prolific scorer in the reserves this season, is also included in the 12-man squad.

Ron Atkinson must make a tricky decision on whether to change Manchester United's strike force now that Hughes, who has scored 13 goals this season, is available after suspension. If Hughes returns, Brazil is unlikely to get the chance to face his old club, Ipswich, who once again find themselves struggling and hampered by injuries.

Bobby Ferguson's side are without both their strikers, Sunderland (calf injury) and D'Avray (thigh strain). Yallop may be drafted into defence if the right-back, Burley, fails to recover from a groin strin. Ironically, a good performance by butcher could trigger a fresh transfer bid from Atkinson, whose top priority is to strengthen United's central defence.

West Ham are likely to be unchanged as they seek their first League double of the season against Southampton at Upton Park. Allen, who has been deputising at right-back for the injured Stewart, is expected to play despite requiring a cortisone injection for his injured ankle. Southampton give fitness tests to Whitlock (broken nose) and Jordan (groin strain), but it will be surprising if there is any place for Wright or Williams who have been out of the side for a month.

Norwich City, unbeaten at home this season, will rely on Hartford to provide the midfield guile against second-placed Spurs at Carrow Road. "They will have a go at us but our form and confidence are sky-high at the moment," said the Spurs manager, Peter Shreeves, yesterday. Norwich, who entertain Arsenal on Boxing Day, will be seeking to demonstrate that their recent victory over Everton was no fluke.

The Sheffield Wednesday midfield player, Shelton, has made an astonishing recovery after being carried off on a stretcher with a suspected broken ankle at West Ham last Saturday. Though Shelton still has bad bruising, he looks certain to be in the team to play bottom-placed Stoke at Hillsborough. Smith is ruled out of defence by an injured knee—which could open the way for a comeback by Sterland.

Ian Baird, on loan from Southampton, could paly in the Newcastle United attack against Aston Villa, who are hovering on the edge of the relegation zone. Baird is poised to replace Beardsley, who has a groin injury, while Roeder (hamstring) and Saunders (two-match suspension) miss the visit to Villa Park. Graham Turner recalls McMahon to Villa's midfield.

Charles Burgess

'Santas' save Southend

Two of the League's best-known chairmen — Robert Maxwell of Oxford United and Ken Bates of Chelsea — joined together yesterday to play Santa Claus to the supporters of Southend United and, in the process, save the club from possible bankruptcy proceedings.

Supporters had been angry to discover this week that £70,000 they had invested in their Shrimpers' Christmas Savings Club had disappeared in the day to day running of the troubled Fourth Division club, managed by Bobby Moore. They threatened to make the club bankrupt in an effort to retrieve their cash.

But yesterday Maxwell and Bates decided to loan the Shrimpers Club the money which they were owed and it was being paid out last night at Roots Hall to the anxious fans. The pair avoided running foul of League regulations — which forbid anyone being involved in the running of more than one club — by making the loan to the supporters rather than the football club.

Maxwell, the publisher of the Daily Mirror, denied he wanted to take over Southend or have any involvement in its organisation. "We have done this because it is Christmas and because it is our way of wishing soccer supporters everywhere a happy Christmas and successful 1985," he said.

Southend have a new chairman and board of directors who took over from a previous regime controlled by Anton Johnson, who has been banned by the League from taking any further part in the affairs of any English club.

The news of Maxwell and Bates's intervention was not the only piece of festive cheer at Roots Hall yesterday. A loan from the Professional Footballers' Association, the players' union, means that the players have been paid for the first time this month and the League have advanced a further £15,000 from their agreement with the Pools Promoters' Association. Bobby Moore said last night: "It shows that the spirit of Christmas can still be found in the game."

● Alan Curbishley, the former West Ham and Birmingham midfield player, joined Charlton from Aston Villa for £35,000 yesterday.

● Ken NcNaught, the West Bromwich central defender, has joined Manchester City on a month's loan.

● Wrexham, bottom of the Fourth Division, have rejected an offer from Portuguese League leaders Porto for their top scorer, Jim Steel. The Wrexham chairman Pryce Griffiths described the offer as "ridiculously low — an insult to both the club and the player." Steel cost Wrexham £10,000 from Port Vale, and it was his first-leg goal that set Wrexham up for victory over Porto in the European Cup-Winners' Cup.



SHE SWOOPS TO CONQUER: Elisabeth Kirchler on the way to victory in the last women's World Cup downhill race before the Christmas break. Austrian skiers took the first three places yesterday at the Italian resort of Santa Caterina Valfurva. Michela Figini of Switzerland, the Olympic downhill champion, had set the fastest practice time, but could manage no better than fourth place, 0.45sec. behind Kirchler

CRICKET

England fall cheaply

Australia took command of the second women's Test in Adelaide, scoring 84 for one in reply to England's 91.

The England openers, Lear and Hodges, were early victims to the pace of Price, who went on to take four for 22. England were also troubled by the spin of Fullston, who took Southgate's wicket and conceded only 13 runs in 15 overs. Top scorer was Brittin, but she fell to a catch by Fullston off Thompson for 22.

England's tailenders, McConway and Starling, shared the highest stand of the innings with 21, with McConway standing firm for 51 minutes for 13.

When Australia batted, Verco and Emerson soon brought up the fifty before Verco edged a ball from McConway to the wicket-keeper. The England captain, Southgate, persisted with spin in Hodges and Court and succeeded in slowing down the scoring rate; but Emerson ended the day on 53 not out.

The Australian captain, Thompson, hopes to reach a position to declare sometime after lunch today.

ADELAIDE.—England (first innings) 91 (Price 4 for 22). Australia (first innings) 84 for 1) D. Emerson 53 not out.

McGuigan considering two bouts before March

BOXING

Barney Eastwood, Barry McGuigan's manager and Belfast promoter, has won the purse offer to stage the Irishman's next European featherweight title defence, against Farid Gallouz of France, possibly next month.

However, McGuigan is already lined up to appear at the King's Hall on February 20 in a major promotion involving American television. His probable opponent will be the former world champion Juan Laporte.

Eastwood said yesterday: "It all depends whether Barry wants to fight in January. If he does, it will probably go on at the Ulster Hall. If, as I believe, Gallouze is involved in a French championship fight, it might suit everyone to put the European championship back to early Aril."

Meanwhile Paddy Lynch, manager of the European super featherweight champion Pat Cowdell, has scotched stories of a £300,000 winner-take-all fight with McGuigan. After contacting Eastwood, he said: "McGuigan does not want to meet Cowdell at the present time — if at all. All we need is five weeks' notice and Pat would fight McGuigan anywhere, except in Belfast."

One interested third party is the London promoter Frank Warren, who is ready to stage the fight on "neutral territory" in London. "Finding the money for such an attractive match will be no problem," he said yesterday.

● Warren has invited the Prince of Wales to be guest of honour at the world welterweight title fight between Welshman Colin Jones and champion Don Curry at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham on January 19.

RUGBY LEAGUE: Southend Invicta yesterday took Mark Ella, their leading try scorer with 14 this season, off the transfer list at his own request. He was priced at £20,000 after asking for a move.

BASKETBALL: The quarter-final draw in the Anglo-Scottish Cup is:

MURRAY INTERNATIONAL.—Edinburgh v. Sunderland; FSO Cars Warrington v. Walkers Crisps Leicester; John Carr Doncaster v. Cottrills Manchester; Hemel & Watford v. Kingcraft Kingston.

RESULTS

Skiing

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP—Downhill (Santa Caterina Valfurva, It): 1, E. Kirchler (Aust) 1m. 24.60s; 2, V. Vitzthum (Aust) 1—24.79; 3, K. Gutensohn (Aust) 1—24.88; 4, M. Figini (Switz) 1—25.05; 5, S. Wickler (Aust) 1—25.19; 6, M. Kiehl (W. Ger) 1—25.24. Downhill standings: 1, Kirchler 37pts; equal 2, Z. Haas (Switz) 30, Kiehl 30; 4, Vitzthum 29; 5, Gutensohn 19; 6, F... 17. Overall standings: 1, Kiehl 88pts;

Squash Rackets

FOSTER CUP (Queen's Club) — Final: R. Owen-Browne (Tonbridge) beat D. G. Dick (Harrow) 15-12, 15-5, 10-15, 15-5. 2, Kirchler 70; 3, E. Hess (Switz) 59; 4, C. Guignard (Fr) 57; 5, Haas 55; 6, Oertli (Switz) 54.

Ice Hockey

IZVESTIA CUP (Moscow): Finland 6, W Germany 3; USSR 5, Czechoslovakia 0.

FINAL STANDINGS

	W	L	F	A	Pts
USSR	4	0	23	1	8
Czechoslovakia	2	2	17	15	4
Finland	2	2	18	20	4
Sweden	2	2	8	17	4
W Germany	0	4	7	24	0

SOCCER DIARY



Patrick Barclay

Liddle and largesse

THOSE WHO regard Italy as a land of milk and honey for foreign footballers ought to talk to the 11 who were assembled at the beginning of this season in Terranova, a small Sicilian town.

The local club were ambitious. They wanted to get out of regional football and into the national Third Division. But how? To their wealthy young chairman, Nuccio Russello, it was quite simple. Successful clubs had foreign players. So he would sign 11.

With the help of a kindly agent — a Brussels-based Argentine who must have thought he'd won the Totocalcio — Russello procured a collection of South Americans, Africans, and Europeans, including a 21-year-old *English* defender called Gavin Liddle, who had had a couple of seasons with Darlington.

Russello's confident view was that his all-stars, professionals in a mainly amateur league, would rip effortlessly through the opposition. It quickly became apparent that he was wrong. Terranova have struggled all season, before crowds diminishing from 8,000 to 1,000. Already four of the Magnificent Eleven have gone, and the others have had their wages slashed by as much as three quarters.

One, a Chilean, was so incensed at being asked to live on £40 a week, accommodation paid, that he took his wife and two children to Russello's office and staged a sit-in. In the ensuing fracas, the president got a black eye. The Chilean got four one-way rail tickets out of town.

All this has had a predictable effect on team spirit. Last weekend Terranova lost yet again, at home, and the remaining supporters jeered Russello mercilessly. His next bright idea is awaited with something less than eager anticipation.

WHEN FIFTY Manchester City supporters from Dublin visited Maine Road recently, Chris Muir, a City director, took the opportunity of asking why so many Dubliners should align themselves with the club. The invariable reply, logical in its way, was: "Because everyone in Dublin supports Manchester United."

MIGHTY BLACKPOOL, the Sierra Leone club about whom I wrote last week, have friends in high places .. and a skeleton in their cupboard.

Desmond Davies, editor of Africa Now, recalls that in 1969 they went into the last match of the season requiring victory by 20 goals to take the championship. Desite their formidable status it seemed an impossible task, especially as the opposition, Barrolle, were no mean side either. But the tangerine dream appeared to come true when Blackpool won 20-0.

The local FA were not fooled. However, while Barrolle felt the full force of authority's outrage, being expelled, Blackpool got away with forfeiting the title. Their supporters, including prominent politicians, were mightily relieved.

IT MUST irk poets to be partially quoted, but I thought you might be interested in these lines from Football at Slack, by Ted Hughes, which has merry-coloured men chasing the game:

Winds from fiery holes in heaven
Piled the hills darkening around them
To awe them. The glare light
Mixed its mad oils and threw glooms.
Then the rain lowered a steel press.

That's our new Poet Laureate on an amateur knockabout! I'd love to read him on the Cup Final.

AFTER West Bromwich had lost 4-0 at Highbury, their coach Norman Hunter walked up the stairs, closely followed by an elated Don Howe. The match had seen a certain amount of give and take, players of both sides requiring stitches. "Hey look Norman," said Howe, pointing downwards. "There's blood on the stairs — that's what the game's all about, eh?" Old Bite Yer Legs, appreciating the drollery, grunted affirmation.

هكذا من الاصل

Present mirth . . . present laughter

Robert Armstrong, our sporting Santa, hands out his Xmas gifts



CHARLIE NICHOLAS: A second earring. Not long ago, Don Howe pointed out that Charlie was cutting inside lunging defenders because the weight of his single earring was dragging him away from the touchline. A matching pair might give the fashion-conscious Scot a balanced head to help him drive in a straight line when he gets his licence back. The nice wife that Peter Hill-Wood, Arsenal chairman, thinks Charlie needs could borrow both earrings every aturday afternoon.



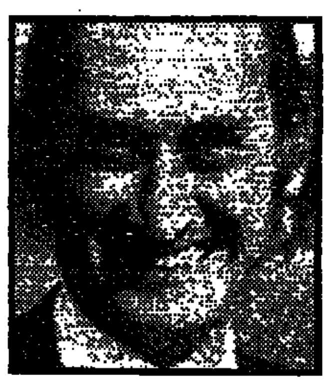
ALAN JONES: A safe seat. It is not widely known that the Wallabies manager hindered his blossoming political career by touring Britain and Ireland during the Australian general election. Alan was a bracing gust of antipodean air, sweeping away cobwebs of complacency on the field and blowing a large raspberry for free speech when the home unions unwisely tried to reprimand him for publicly criticising the dismissal of one of the Australian players. You cannot tie this Wallaby down, sport.



DAVID GOWER: The Olympic flame. This may seem a strange choice for England's cricket captain, but do not be fooled by this week's surprising win over India. David's Test record proves how dedicated he is to the notion that it is the taking part, not the winning, that counts. More to the point he appears to have instilled the true amateur spirit into his colleagues, most of whom rarely miss a chance to snatch a sporting defeat from the jaws of an honourable draw.



DALEY THOMPSON: A Royal wedding. Daley delighted the Americans — and stunned the British — with his revelations of a secret passion for a gracious princess last summer. But the athlete who thinks protocol is the name of a new rock group would not be the first commoner to slip through the Palace guard, even if the lady of his choice is already spoken for. After all, everything Daley touches turns to gold, surely the ideal recommendation for a man who would be king.



IAN TAYLOR: A suntan. The hero of Britain's gritty Olympic hockey team spent hours and hours in California's blazing sunshine last August — with every square inch of his body covered with layers of protective gear to save him from the deadly missile used in this rapid-fire sport. All goalkeepers may be crazy, but Ian showed astonishing technical method in his madness. The man who made hockey the queen among the Cinderella sports deserves the kind of bronze you only get at Malibu.



BARRY McGUIGAN: A pair of leg irons. If the whirlwind Irish featherweight could be persuaded to accept such a handicap, then he might find it easier to line up a half-serious challenger, perhaps even one who could take away his titles. Paradoxically, Barry constitutes the perfect argument both for and against pro boxing—his character and comportment inside and outside the ring are exemplary, yet his killer instinct and bone-breaking skills are so lethal that he is a constant danger to other men's health.



MARK WRIGHT: A headguard. It has become painfully obvious that this piece of gear is now more essential than a jockstrap for the Southampton footballer. It will offer sturdy protection during interval team talks at The Dell. Mark must also fend off the blows of enraged feminists, who were reminded of his Swedish nightmare at great length (and greater expense) in the Sunday People this week. Why does the Wright lad keep getting into the wrong place?



DAVID LLOYD: A glasshouse in which to throw stones. From time to time our former Davis Cup battler knocks the stuffing out of the LTA for what he sees as their culpable failure to revise British tennis. Yet David runs a posh racquet centre on commercial lines in West London, which is so expensive to join — and to hire courts at — that you would need a heavy dividend from British Telecom shares to pay your way. Not the place for those kids hammering out their forehand in the parks of Brixton.

Rich assortment from the Biscuit Boys' past

As a boy, JOHN ARLOTT (right) cycled from his Hampshire home to watch his beloved Reading FC. Now, as a new history of the club hits the bookstalls, Arlott takes a nostalgic look at the best of the Biscuit Boys.

ALL RIGHT, then; Biscuits & Royals (Fericon Press, Randolph Road, Reading, Berks, RG1 8EB, £10.95) by David Downs is a history of Reading Football Club, 1871-1984. In London and the great footballing cities of the North and the Midlands, if they do not laugh themselves silly, they will, even more slightingly, give an airy smirk.

It is the record of a club who once reached the Second Division and stayed there for five insecure seasons; once achieved a place in the FA Cup semi-final; won the London War Cup in 1941; but otherwise has spent most of their unspectacular existence in the Third and Fourth Divisions.

Mr Downs — Reading-born and now a schoolteacher there — though, has rendered a service to, and made friends with, those who in distant days pushed their noses over the handlebars of (usually) ancient bicycles and urged them furiously of a Saturday afternoon, to — according to the density of their Hampshire or Berkshire accents — Reddin or Reddun; and, of course, Elm Park. Those who still every Saturday evening or Sunday morning, listen or look first to the Reading result give him thanks.

Reading, labelled by the popular press "The Biscuit Boys", emerged from the Southern League to the Third (South) in 1920; were champions there in 1925-26 — heady triumph — and spent five teetering seasons in the Second (best position ninth) before they sank back into a series of drops and yank-ups between the Fourth and Third Divisions. Do not think, though, O lofty supporters of more exalted clubs, that those were years without triumphs; humble, perhaps, but warming.

A man must be young — or perpetually a boy — to follow a single and, it must be said, relatively undistinguished Football League club all his life.

Yet the memories of matches watched and relished — even triumphantly — in boyhood, linger. Mr Downs awakes echoes and images. Let us choose an old man's greatest Reading eleven, an excursion into the unknown for the football follower of today.

That will not be easy, though, for the competition is, indeed, intense. Every supporter will identify himself in time by his choice among the club's nine different jerseys: in this corner the black-and-white vertical stripes of the latter part of 1907-1938: and some of the horizontals of 1938-1953. Only the veterans now survive of those who lived, unbelievingly, through the Cup progress of 1926-27 — the three ties with Manchester United, culminating almost incredibly in that win at Villa Park; and, at the last gasp, falling to Cardiff City in the semi-final, one agonisingly unattainable step short of a final with Arsenal.

Now, to our all-time side.

In goal, the whole task is made the more difficult by the lack of an index, but let us not be ungrateful for lacking small mercies. Shall it be Joe Duckworth, fearless, if often feverish, hurler of his hunched body at the feet of advancing centre forwards. Or the poised John Mapson who, transferred away, won England caps. Let them play a half apiece.

Right back: the cool, bald Bert Eggo, captain in promotion time; was yet one day, and finally for his career, routed by Stoke City? Or the thunderous Percy Thorpe, bought from Connah's Quay, who without his false teeth was given to frothy sprayings? No the place must go to Herbert Smith, left-back when he started the move which brought England's goal — by Bache — to beat Scotland 1-0 at Crystal Palace in 1905.

The only amateur in the Reading side and the club captain, Smith was a scrupulously fair player, a total abstainer and non-smoker. He won four full, and 17 amateur England caps.

The left-back must be Billy McConnell, eight times an Irish international, who once refused a cap to stand by Reading in their not-infrequent struggle against relegation. Tall, fair-haired, a dashing, Corinthian-type full-back looking more English than Irish, he feared nothing and moved the hearts of the simple by his gallantry; especially in that bruising epic against Manchester United.

At right-half must, surely, be Billy Inglis, determined, strong and deep-chested, tireless in advance and unfailing in getting back to cover.

Alf Messer will be centre-forward, tall, erect, the lofty epitome of coolness. An unfailing scorer from penalty kicks, he seemed to dismiss the ball into the bottom right-hand corner of goal and turn away without bothering to ascertain that he had scored. He played seven seasons of distinguished football before the club fell to the Third Division and he was sold to Tottenham Hotspur.

At left-half, Dai Evans, busy and quick, was four times capped for Wales. Transferred to Huddersfield, where he might have enabled them to field a side of 11 internationals, he was seduced by Christmas hospitality into an eccentric performance—hand ball? Oh, such a hand ball and disappeared from the top-class scene.

Now to those forwards, fleet and, by the standards of their admiring supporters, splendidly penetrative. The temptation to nominate the fiery Matt McDonald must give way to the certainty of Wilf Chitty, perhaps the most meticulous crosser of the ball the club ever had; and, incidentally, a superb tennis player.

At inside-right, the frail, elusive Wally Baggett, and the neat, vastly underestimated Frank Eaton, must yield to Maurice Edelston. Stocky, intelligent, big of mind and heart, he was surely the finest player the club ever had. Capable, poised, quick of wit and movement, Edelston was also the cleanest of footballers. He was many times a wartime international, captain of England's amateur XI, more than an ordinary broadcaster and the best of friends. The thought of his death is still poignant.

Centre-forward will be closely contested. Hugh Davey, swarthy, stocky, nimble, slickly, penetrative Irish international, and decisive in that distant promotion to the Second in 1925-26, must compete with Tony McPhee, a sharp-witted, tirelessly attacking strategist who squeezed the ball so often from head or foot through the narrowest of gaps to goal.

What then of Ronnie Blackman? Tall, deceptively slim, he would get up into the goalmouth mêlee and throw his forehead decisively and fearlessly into that jostle of heads, arms and bodies.

Then there was Jack Palethorpe, the tall, dark, handsome, popular local boy, who for the sake of the club's finances had to be sold.

The competition is strong: statistics say that Blackman—the club's record scorer with 39 goals in the Third Division (South) in 1951-52—must have the nod. Old sentiments might disagree.

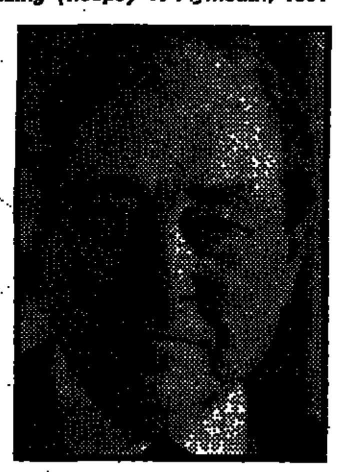
At inside-left, argument will dispute the place between the furiously hostile Frank Richardson, snazzy dresser with the climbing fair curls, who was bought from Swindon in 1926 to clinch promotion; and the more relaxed Bill Layton, who hit the ball like a shell.

On the left wing, Jack Robson, dark, burly, tenacious, strong: or Bill Amor, of whom Wilf Copping once said: "Ay, he'll cross it; just let him clear and he'll cross it and put us in trouble; and the bugger never misses, but bloody never." Yes, all right, Amor.

Dead, most of them, we must suppose; the majority unknown to readers more accustomed to greater clubs, more famous names and later times. For those who were boys when these were live heroes, though, Mr Downs has rendered a deep service; has stirred old nostalgias and recalled a boyhood rich with the memories of Elm Park which few now are still alive to share.

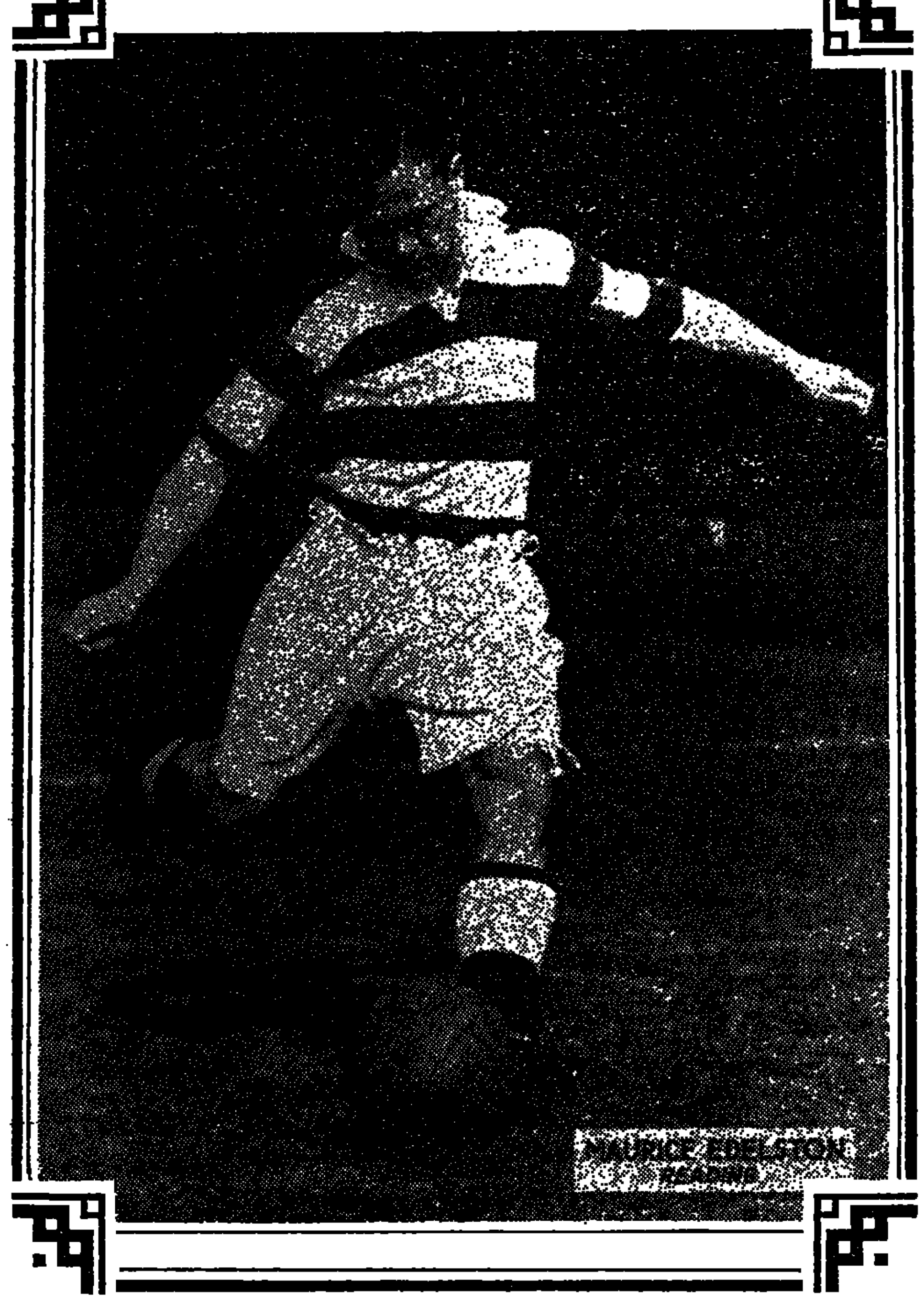


ELM PARK INCIDENT . . . Reading (hoops) v. Plymouth, 1951





ALF MESSER: Cigarette card cameo



BOYS' OWN HERO . . . Maurice Edelston — "the finest player Reading ever had" — pictured here in Charles Buchan's Football Monthly, 1952

RUGBY LEAGUE

Paul Fitzpatrick

Anderson takes the hard line

CHRIS ANDERSON, the new player-coach at Halifax, could have been forgiven if he had delegated one of his side's less envious responsibilities against St Helens in the quarter finals of the John Player Special trophy at Knowsley Road this afternoon; namely, that of marking Mal Meninga.

Instead, he has accepted the job himself. It might be a decision he will regret, but yesterday the Australian supported his switch from full back to centre by saying that he had played with and against Meninga, that he knew his style well, and believed that he knew how to stop him.

Halifax will pray that Anderson is right, for few individuals have managed to contain the powerful Brisbane centre so far. Meninga has had his quieter games, but since his arrival at Knowsley Road St Helens have gone 13 games without defeat, running in 444 points in the process.

Meninga's personal contribution to that flood of points is an impressive 48 from 10 tries and four place kicks, a job now entrusted to the accurate left boot of Sean Day, but his overall effect upon the club cannot be measured in mere statistics.

It is difficult to see a win for Halifax. They visited Knowsley Road for a league game in October, played really well for half the match but still lost 42-14, and although an influx of Australians to Thrum Hall — there are eight in the side today — have given Halifax their best side for years, St Helens, even without the exciting Phil Veivers, should reach the semi-finals with something to spare.

Shaun Allen, one of Saints' emerging young players, will take Veivers' place at full-back, with Steve Peters partnering Meninga in the centre. St Helens might also be without Andy Platt in the second row. He was deprived of an international cap last weekend because of suspension and is now suffering from neck and shoulder trouble. Paul Forber will take his place if necessary.

The other three quarter-finals will be played tomorrow and it will be surprising if two of them do not once again emphasise the massive difference in standards between First and Second Division clubs. Dewsbury and Bramley deserve every credit for reaching this stage but both will probably have to settle for financial reward.

Dewsbury, who have overseas players in Tony Murphy, hard-tackling Australian forward, and Chris Mita, a Maori centre of real quality, will meet a Hull side missing Garry Schofield, who fractured an elbow in the international at Albi last Sunday. Lee Crooks, however, returns in the second row in place of Wayne Proctor.

Three former Leeds players will be in the Bramley side to play the holders at Headingley, the most famous being Steve Pitchford, who made more than 300 appearances for Leeds and is assured of an imperishable place in the club's history by his performance in the 1977 Challenge Cup final.

The best tie in prospect is at Craven Park where Hull KR meet Widnes. Rovers have had only one queasy period this season when they lost three consecutive games in late October and early November and they should prevail against a Widnes side that could be without the unfortunate Tony Myler. Nevertheless, Widnes, cannot be underestimated; they have a good record in Cup competitions against Rovers at Craven Park.

SOCCER

Old Firm's new face

CELTIC and Rangers have their first of two holiday encounters at Parkhead this afternoon, with the stakes higher for David Hay's side. Celtic, within four points of Aberdeen, are still title challengers and cannot afford to drop points in these fixtures.

It will be Mo Johnston's first appearance in an Old Firm xture and there is no doubt that Celtic's firepower has been greatly enhanced since his arrival. He is likely to thrive on the atmosphere of the occasion. In defence, Celtic will be without Tom MacAdam who fractured his jaw in last week's win over Hibs.

Celtic have not lost at home in 27 League outings and the odds must favour them today, particularly if Johnston, Frank McGarvey and Brian McClair can find anything like their best attacking form.

Rangers, in contrast, have had problems this season in finding a regular route to goal and have averaged barely one goal per League game

WEEKEND FIXTURES IN DETAIL

CANON LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

(3 pm unless stated)

Arsenal v. Watford
Aston Villa v. Newcastle
Everton v. Chelsea
Manchester Utd v. Ipswich
Norwich v. Tottenham
Sheffield Wed v. Stoke
West Ham v. Southampton

TOMORROW

Leicester v. Coventry
Sunderland v. Notts Forest

SECOND DIVISION

Cardiff v. Sheffield Utd.
Fulham v. Manchester City
Grimsby v. Middlesbrough
Huddersfield v. Brighton
Notts County v. Charlton
Portsmouth v. Oxford Utd.
Wimbledon v. Birmingham
Wolverhampton v. Leeds

TOMORROW

Carlisle v. Blackburn
Oldham v. Barnsley (11.30)

SOUTHERN LEAGUE. — Premier Division (not on coupon): Gedworth v. Crawley; Corby v. Fareham; Fisher v. Folkestone; Gloucester v. RS Southampton; Gravesend v. Cheltenham; King's Lynn v. Alvechurch.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.—Midland Division: Aylesbury v. Milton Keynes; Bridgnorth v. Stourbridge; Dudley v. Hednesford; Leicester Utd v. Bromsgrove Rovers; Moor Green v. Banbury; Oldbury v. Merthyr Tydfil; Sutton Coldfield v. Forest Green Rovers; Wellingboro Town v. Coventry S.

THIRD DIVISION

Bolton v. Cambridge Utd
Bristol Rovers v. Swansea
Burnley v. Walsall
Derby v. Newport
Doncaster v. Gillingham
Hull City v. Brentford
Lincoln v. Bradford City
Plymouth v. Millwall
Reading v. Bristol City (12)
Rotherham v. Wigan

FOURTH DIVISION

Hartlepool v. Chester
Mansfield v. Northampton
Port Vale v. Scunthorpe
Swindon v. Halifax
Torquay v. Southend
Wrexham v. Blackpool

Tomorrow

Hereford v. Aldershot (3.15)

Southern Division: Andover v. Hillingdon; Ashford v. Woodford; Basingstoke v. Chatham; Cambridge v. Erith and B; Gosport Boro v. Dunstable; Pool Town v. Sheppey; Salisbury v. Addlestone; Thanet v. Canterbury; Tonbridge v. Dover; Waterlooville v. Dorchester.

GREAT MILLS WESTERN LEAGUE (2.30 unless stated). — Premier Division: Bideford v. Liskeard (3.0); Bristol City v. Clandown; Clevedon v. Plymouth; Dawlish v. Barnstaple; Melksham v. Chard; Minehead v. Shepton Mallet (3.0); Paulton Rovers v. Devizes; Weston-super-Mare v. Chippenham.

SERVOWARM ISTHMIAN LEAGUE. — Premier Division: Windsor and Eton v. Harrow.

FA TROPHY. — Third Qualifying Round: Billericay v. Bishop's Stortford; Bootle v. Sth Liverpool (2.0).

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Premier Division

Aberdeen v. Dundee. Utd.
Celtic v. Rangers (2)

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION

Airdrie v. Brechin
Clydebank v. Falkirk
East Fife v. Hamilton
Forfar v. Ayr
Kilmarnock v. Clyde
Meadowbank v. St Johnstone
Partick v. Motherwell

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION

Dunfermline v. Montrose
E. Stirlingshire v. Stirling Albion
Queen of the South v. Albion Rovers
Queen's Park v. Berwick
Raith Rovers v. Cowdenbeath
Stenhousemuir v. Alloa
Stranraer v. Arbroath

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE (11.0). — Division One: Charlton v. West Ham (Eltham); Chelsea v. Fulham (Harlington); Orient v. Norwich (Ive Farm); Portsmouth v. Millwall (Rugby Camp); QPR v. Ipswich (Loftus Rd); Watford v. Gillingham (Woodside). League Cup Second Round Replay: Southend v. Spurs (Gt Wakering).

DRYBROUGHS NORTHERN LEAGUE. — Division One: Billingham v. Ferryhill; North Shields v. Peterlee; Ryhope v. Whitby; Shildon v. Horden; Spennymoor v. Tow Law. League Cup, Second Round: Gretna v. South Bank. Third Round: Crook v. Durham City.

DURHAM CHALLENGE CUP.—First Round: Bishop Auckland v. Seaham; Wingate v. Consett.

GOLA LEAGUE

Barnet v Frickley
Dagenham v Kidderminster
Kettering v Barrow
Maidstone v Bath
Nuneaton v Gateshead
Scaborough v Boston Utd
Telford Utd v Runcorn
Wealdstone v Altrincham

SOUTHERN PREMIER DIVISION

A. P. Leamington v Trowbridge
Shepshed v Hastings
Willenhall v Welling
Witney v Chelmsford

GOLA LEAGUE (not on coupon). — Weymouth v. Enfield; Worcester v. Northwich; Yeovil v. Dartford.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE (2.15). — Bangor v. Ballymena; Coleraine v. Ards; Crusaders v. Newry; Distillery v. Portadown; Glenavon v. Carrick Rangers; Glentoran v. Cliftonville (3.0); Larne v. Linfield.

FA VASE.—Third Round: Brandon Utd v. Heswall (1.30); Blue Star v. Armthorpe Welfare (1.30); Ford Motors (Liverpool) v. Guisboro (1.30); Chester-Le-Street v. Congleton (1.30); Fleetwood v. Warrington Town (1.30); Easington Coll v. Bedlington (1.30); Buckingham v. Wythenshaw Amateurs; Hucknall Cw v. Atherstone (1.30); Lincoln Utd v. Wolverhampton Utd (1.30); Rushall O v. Eastwood (Hanley); Rainworth Mw v. Skegness (1.30); Louth v. Oadby (2.0); Halesowen v. Stamford; Wisbech v. Haverhill R.; Finchley v. Stansted; Braintree v. Wivenhoe; Bury Town v. Gorleston (2.30); Sudbury v. VS Rugby; Egham v. Leyton Wingate; Alma Swanley v. Tunbridge Wells (1.30); Cray v. Steyning (1.30); Harefield v. Marlow; Bracknell v. Collier Row (3.15); Uxbridge v. Eastbourne Utd; Cheshunt v. Wallingford Town; Exmouth v. Newport IoW (1.30); Sholing Sports v. Bristol Manor Farm (1.30); 0 Georgians v. Wimborne (1.30); Sharpness v. Supermarine (1.30); Shortwood v. Torrington (1.30).

Rugby Union

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES. — Edinburgh v. Anglo Scots (at Myreside, 2.15); Glasgow v. North and Midlands (at Hughenden, 2.15).

IRISH TRIAL (Lansdowne Road). — Probables v. Possibles (2.30).

CLUB MATCHES.—Bath v. Sale; Bedford v. Orrell; Boroughmuir v. Heriot's FP (2.15); Cardiff v. Bridgend; Coventry v. Rosslyn Pk; Edinburgh Wdrs v. Edinburgh Acads (2.15); Fylde v. Sheffield (2.15); Glamorgan Wdrs v. Bristol; Glasgow Acads v. Highland (2.15); Gloucester v. Newport; Haddington v Stewarts Mel FP (2.15); Hawick v. Langholm (2.15); Headingley v. Wakefield (2.30); Huddersfield v. Morley (2.30); Jedforest v. Melrose (2.15); Jordanhill v. West of Scotland (2.15); Kelso v. Gala (2.15).

Liverpool v. Birkenhead Pk (2.30); Llanelli v Sth Wales Police; London Welsh v. Leicester (2.15); Lydney v. Cross Keys (2.30); Maesteg v. Aberavon; Middlesbrough v. Gosforth (2.15); Moseley v. Ebbw Vale; Neath v. Plymouth Albion; New Brighton v. Hartlepool Rovers; Northampton v. Nuneaton; Nottingham v. Rugby; Penarth v. Newbridge; Pontypool v. Bath; Richmond v. Harlequins (2.30); Roundhay v. Harrogate (2.15); Saracens v Exeter (2.30); Swansea v. Abertillery; Vale of Lune v. Broughton Pk (2.15); Wasps v. Blackheath (2.30); West Hartlepool v. Hull & ER (2.15).

Rugby League

JOHN PLAYER SPECIAL TROPHY. — Quarter-final: St Helens v. Halifax (2.15).

TOMORROW

JOHN PLAYER SPECIAL TROPHY. — Quarter-finals: Dewsbury v. Hull (3.30), Hull KR v. Widnes, Leeds v. Bramley.

SLALOM LAGER CHAMPIONSHIP.—Castleford v. Barrow (3.30), Hunslet v. Wigan (3.30).

SECOND DIVISION.—Batley v. Mansfield M. (2.30), Doncaster v. Carlisle (2.30), Keighley v. Rochdale H (3.15), Salford v. Sheffield E, Southend I v. Swinton, Wakefield T v. Huddersfield (3.30).

Hockey

TODAY

ATARI LONDON LEAGUE (2.15) — Premier Division: Blackheath v. Richmond; Cheam v. Spencer; Dulwich v. Surbiton; Hounslow v. O Kingstonians; Maidenhead v. Wimbledon; Purley v. Bromley; Reading v. Teddington; Southgate v. Hawks.

NORWICH UNION EAST LEAGUE. — Premier Division: Ford v. Ipswich.

EUROPEAN JUNIOR INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIP.—Qualifying Tournament (Barcelona).

INDOOR TOURNAMENT.—West 'N' Welsh (Southwold SC, Yate, Bristol, 9.0).

TOMORROW

NORTHERN PREMIER INDOOR LEAGUE (Bury) (1.40 pm). — Alderley Edge v. Southport; Chester CCO v. Welton; Alderley Edge v. Chester CCO; Welton v. Southport; Southport v. Chester; Welton v Alderley Edge.

EUROPEAN JUNIOR INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIP.—Qualifying Tournament (Barcelona).

INDOOR TOURNAMENT.—West 'N' Welsh (Tournament (Yate, 9.30, Final 4.45).

INDOOR LEAGUES. — Midlands Premier (Granby Halls, Leicester & Players, Nottingham): North Premier (Bury, 1.30).

COUNTY. — Suffolk v. RAF (Bury St Edmunds, 2.0).

Basketball

NATIONAL LEAGUE (8.0 unless stated).—First Division (Men): Davenports Birmingham v. Sunderland Maestros; Homespare Bolton v. FSO Cars L'pool & Warrington; Nissan Bears Worthing v. Crystal Palace Supersonics; Screen Stars Telford v. Colrills Manchester Giants; Walkers Crisps Leicester v. Hemel & Watford Royals (7.30). Second Division (Men): John Eld Derby v. Calderdale Explorers; Sandwell Mail v. Stoke ANC; Swindon Rakers v. Team Wakefields Nottingham.

First Division (Women): Worthing Wasps v. Avon Northampton (6.0).

TOMORROW

First Division (Men): Kingcraft Kingston v. Sperrings Solent Stars (4.0). Second Division (Men): McEwan Tyneside v. Camden (4.0); Team Telecom Colchester v. Swindon Rakers (4.0); Team Wakefields Nottingham v. Tower Hamlets (3.0).

First Division (Women): Ashfield Glass Nottingham v. Sheffield Hatters (1.0).

Lacrosse

NORTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE. — First Division: Cheadle v. Timperley; Stockport v. Sheffield; Heaton Mersey v. Old Hulmeians; Mellor v. Old Stopfordians; Old Waconians v. Sheffield University; Sale v. South Manchester and Wythenshawe. Second Division: Old Stopfordians A v. Ashton; Urmston v. Mellor A; Poynton v. Boardman and Eccles; Rochdale v. Cheadle A; Old Hulmeians A v. Stockport A.

TOMORROW

UNDER-21 MATCH (Cheadle, 2.0). — Cheshire v. Lancashire.

Planetman to star in Welsh National

Chris Hawkins

Always the dilemma in arriving upon a race selection is whether you adhere to form or play a hunch, and today's Coral Welsh National over three and threequarter miles at Chepstow has ample scope for such mental agonising.

On current form and a point of handicapping, Planetman, one of two runners from the Monica Dickinson stable, is the logical choice. He is an improving young horse who has won both his races this season and today meets rivals he beat comprehensively at Nottingham last time on better terms.

Mid Day Gun (now 15lb worse off) was three lengths behind him in second at Nottingham over three and a half miles, with Androma (2lb worse off) a further 15 lengths away third and Hy-Ko (4lb worse off) another seven lengths adrift in fifth.

That was the second time this season Planetman had met and beaten the Scottish National winner Androma, but it is quite possible the latter will get a lot closer now. Planetman is running this afternoon more or less as an afterthought due to the improvement he has shown, but Androma has been trained all season with this race in mind and, as we have seen in recent weeks, when the Jimmy Fitzgerald stable means business it is wise to take note.

Androma can boast a victory over Planetman, having beaten him 10 lengths, when in receipt of 3lb, at Market Rasen last April. That was a week before his epic triumph in the Scottish National, when, despite an appalling blunder going out on the second circuit, Androma won by five lengths, with Righthand Man sixth.

Righthand Man is the other Dickinson runner today and has been well fancied for some time. He likes soft ground and should get it here, having won both his races this season on such a surface and trouncing Hy-Ko by 15 lengths at Cheltenham on November. A literal line through Hy-Ko suggests Righthand Man will be unable to give Planetman 19lb today but I would not trust it too implicitly.

Righthand Man is something of a key horse for through Why Forget, his Haydock victim last time, one can make out a case for the Chepstow specialist, Little Polveir, who came from a long way back to beat Why Forget by ten lengths at Sandown recently. Little Polveir had only 7st 13lb in the orginal handicap today but was way out of the handicap at Sandown, so too much attention should not be paid to that.

With the Hennessy form working out so well — four of the first five have won since — Kumbi (fifth) and Lucky Vane (sixth) must come into the reckoning. Kumbi had a head to spare over Lucky Vane then and meets him on 8lb better terms but is not certain to confirm the form as Toby Balding's chaser finished strongly at Newbury and will be well suited by the extra half mile here.

Peaty Sandy won this two years ago and showed a glimmer of his old ability when getting up to beat Hardy Lad at Newcastle last time, but his jockey then, Geordie Dun, has deserted him in favour of A Kinsman, a little horse with a big heart. A Kinsman is not built to carry a lot of weight, however, and with 11st 7lb, has it all to do.

Knock Hill ran with promise when second to Door Latch at Cheltenham recently and with only 9st 1lb in the original handicap has benefited greatly from the weights being raised 13lb. He must have each-way prospects.

Hopefully I have mentioned the winner somewhere along the line. If I were playing a hunch Androma would be the selection but I shall stand by current form and go for Planetman (2.05).

It is a good Chepstow card and the Finale Junior Hurdle has attracted some of the best young timber-toppers. Beat The Retreat has made a tremendous impression with four successive victories all achieved within a few weeks.

His closest call was at Sandown three weeks ago when he just got home in a desperate finish with Wing And A Prayer, but the outcome could have been different if Freeflow had not fallen when challenging at the last.

There was a difference of opinion among observers then as to whether Freeflow (1.30) would have won if he had stood up, but I thought he was staying on well and take him to win today.

At Lingfield Opening Bars (12.50) can pay Beat The Retreat a compliment in the Dame Elizabeth Ackroyd Novice Hurdle. He was beaten six lengths by that horse over the course and distance two weeks ago.

One of the best bets at Nottingham is Nassau Royale (1.30) in the second division of the Tollerton Novice Hurdle. This mare was expected at Nottingham last time but met two above average rivals in Joy Ride and Chipped Metal. She should make no mistake this time.



Mrs Monica Dickinson's Righthand Man, who challenges for the Coral Welsh National with stable-companion Planetman

LINGFIELD

12.50 Opening Bars
1.20 Whole Shebang
1.50 Tom Tailor
2.20 Bold Yeoman
2.50 Gold of a Gunner
3.20 Mount Harvard

TOTE DOUBLE: 1.50 2.50. TREBLE: 1.20, 2.20 & 3.20
★ DENOTES BLINKERS. GOING: Heavy

12 50 — DAME ELIZABETH ACKROYD THREE YEARS OLD NOVICE HURDLE; 2m: £744 (21 runners).

3 12 OPENING BARS (D) D. Oughton 11-2 ... P. Double
4 301 THUNDER ROCK (D) A. Davison 11-2 R. Goldstein
6 00223 ATKINS B. Swift 10-10 ... R. Campbell (4)
8 CANONBURY FLYER Pat Mitchell 10-10 M. Hammond
10 COLDHARBOUR LAD E. Beever 10-10 ... ——
12 DIAMONDS HIGH P. Mitchell 10-10 A. Wright (7)
15 GOLDEN TRIANGLE P. Makin 10-10 ... H. Davies
16 HEIGHT OF SUMMER D. Arbuthnot 10-10 C. Mann
17 F HODNET Mrs N. Smith 10-10 ... R. Rowe
18 00 KILLOON F. Winter 10-10 ... N. Fearn (7)
19 P MARSH HARRIER ★ A. Moore 10-10 ... G. Moore
20 003 MEZIARA A. Ingham 10-10 ... Steve Knight
21 MYLECONE D. Oughton 10-10 ... G. Enright
22 4 PARVENO B. Wise 10-10 ... R. Rowell
26 SARPAL R. Champion 10-10 ... A. Webb
28 SPARTAN BAZAAR K. C.-Brown 10-10 ... S. Moore
32 00222 WASSEM J. Jenkins 10-10 ... R. Linley
33 YAZEED A. Davison 10-10 ... R. Chapman (4)
34 04 YOUNG BUCKERS M. Haynes 10-10 ... R. McGhin
36 KERRY'S COURT A. Moore 10-5 Miss C. Moore (7)
37 00 SNATCH BACK M. Keegan 10-5 ... J. Akehurst
1983: Meeting abandoned.
Betting forecast: 13-8 Opening Bars, 7-2 Wassem, 5 Meziara, 8 Young Buckers, 10 Atkins, 12 Parveno.
TOP FORM TIPS: Opening Bars 9, Wassem 7, Atkins 6.

— ITV —

1 20—TOTE PLACEPOT HANDICAP HURDLE: 2m; £3,288 (11 runners).

1 130-002 DALBURY (D) P. Haynes 6-11-11 ... P. Corrigan (7)
4 310-F41 EVERSEAL (C/D) F. Winter 4-11-1 ... N. Fearn (7)
5 021-002 WHOLE SHEBANG (C/D) A. Turnell 5-11-1 ... Steve Knight
8 131401- LOCHBOISDALE (D) J. King 4-10-11 ... H. Davies
10 43100-0 GALLANT BUCK (D) D. Elsworth 4-10-8 ... R. Arnott (4)
11 F001-40 JACK O'LANTERN (C/D) P. Cundell 9-10-5 R. Rowe
14 111P/P0 WINDBREAKER (D) A. Moore 6-10-0 ... G. Moore
15 F400B-0 GOLDYKE (D) J. Bosley 6-10-0 ... S. Shilston
16 00200-0 MARINE (D) G. Balding 6-10-0 ... R. Chapman (4)
17 00/P- UNEQUAL HALVES B. Wise 7-10-0 ... R. Rowell
18 01-020P WATERHEAD D. Oughton 4-10-0 ... P. Double
Betting forecast: 15-8 Whole Shebang, 5-2 Everseal, 7-2 Dalbury, 8 Lochboisdale, 14 Gallant Buck, 16 Jack O'Lantern.
TOP FORM TIPS: Whole Shebang 8, Everseal 7, Dalbury 6.

— ITV —

1 50—TOTE DUAL FORECAST HANDICAP CHASE: 2m; £2,313 (6 runners).

2 /4333-3 RO'S OWEN (C/D) T. Forster 9-11-10 ... H. Davies
4 02-1111 TOM TAILOR (7lb ex) (D) R. Armytage 7-11-1 ... A. Webber
5 02-0F01 ROCK SAINT (7lb ex) (D) G. Gregson 7-11-0 ... P. Nicholls
7 3100-P4 BIRD STREAM (D) J. F.-Heyes 8-10-0 ... ——
8 013P-10 MOROCCO BOUND (D) S. Woodman 5-10-0 P. Double
9 030F1-0 CARBURY'S KIT C. Whitell 9-10-0 ... J. Akehurst
Betting forecast: 8-11 Tom Tailor, 100-30 Ro's Owen, 9-2 Rock Saint, 12 Morocco Bound, 14 Bird Stream, 16 Carbury's Kit.
TOP FORM TIPS: Tom Tailor 9, Ro's Owen 7, Rock Saint 6.

— ITV —

2 20—TOTE TREBLE HANDICAP CHASE: 3m; £3,719 (7 runners)

1 2FP-20F MAORI ADVENTURE (C) A. Turnell 8-11-10 ... Steve Knight
3 P-42231 BOLD YEOMAN (7lb ex) (C/D) J. Gifford 8-11-3 ... M. Palmer (7)
5 0310-42 MANTON CASTLE R. Armytage 10-11-0 A. Webber
7 1-33412 ROUND THE TWIST (D) (BF) D. Oughton 8-10-4 ... P. Double
10 0P401P- ROMAN BISTRO (D) J. Gifford 8-10-2 ... R. Rowe
11 213-043 SAUNDERS (C/D) T. Clay 10-10-0 ... G. Saunders
12 PP-0423 MASTER NIBBLE (C/D) C. Holmes 9-10-0 A. Webb
Betting forecast: 5-2 Manton Castle, 100-30 Saunders, 4 Bold Yeoman, 11-2 Round The Twist, 8 Maori Venture, 12 Master Nibble.
TOP FORM TIPS: Bold Yeoman 8, Manton Castle 7.

2 50—TOTE DAILY DOUBLE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE: 2½m; £1,858 (13 runners).

4 221100 TROPICAL MIST ★ D. Elsworth 4-11-7 R. Arnott (4)
5 404-FF0 QUELLE FARCE D. Gandolfo 4-11-5 M. Harrington
6 P00120 ABOUSHABON J. Jenkins 4-11-5 ... H. Jenkins (7)
7 040-021 GOLD OF A GUNNER (7lb ex) S. Mellor 4-11-5 ... G. Charles Jones (4)
9 03F330- PARADISE STRAITS ★ S. Woodman 4-11-3 P. Double
10 02-P104 MARTIAL COMMANDER C. Read 4-11-0 ... H. Davies
11 0033/0 MAGIC SKY F. Walwyn 6-10-13 ... S. Shilston
12 00/200- IMPLICATION A. Moore 5-10-10 Miss C. Moore (7)
14 0/B02F- THE PARROT R. Parker 5-10-8 ... E. Murphy (7)
15 000-3 LUCKY IVOR R. Head 5-10-3 ... M. Head (7)
16 P0000-3 PADDY O'MALLEY J. Gifford 4-10-3 ... R. Rowe
18 00040 WORDEL Mrs R. Murdoch 6-10-0 ... J. Akehurst
20 PP-P00 AIRBORNE DEAL A. Moore 5-10-0 ... G. Moore
Betting forecast: 7-4 Gold of a Gunner, 4 Tropical Mist, 5 Paddy O'Malley, 8 Aboushabon, Magic Sky, 12 Paradise Straits.
TOP FORM TIPS: Gold of a Gunner 8, Aboushabon 7, Paddy O'Malley 6.

3 20—SIR ALEXANDER GLEN NOVICE CHASE; 2m; £1,180 (4 runners).

2 40000-0 EUSEBIO (D) D. Oughton 6-11-2 ... P. Double
4 4103-2B MOUNT HARVARD (BF) N. Henderson 8-11-2 ... J. White
6 0-04300 REBEL STAR B. Wise 6-11-2 ... R. Rowell
8 0P0-P00 BIC ROLLER J. Bridger 5-10-9 ... A. Jones (7)
Betting forecast: 1-3 Mount Harvard, 11-2 Rebel Star, 13-2 Eusebio, 20 Bic Roller.
TOP FORM TIPS: Mount Harvard 9, Rebel Star 7.

CHEPSTOW

1.00 Nickle Moppett
1.30 Freeflow
2.05 PLANETMAN (nap)
2.40 Horn of Plenty
3.10 Nudge Nudge
3.40 Hopeful Shot

★ DENOTES BLINKERS: GOING: SOFT.

— BBC-1 —

1 0—NEWSBOY HANDICAP CHASE; 2½m; £1,835 (13 runners).

101 0F1F0- DINGBAT (C/D) (A. Boyce) J. S. Wright 8-12-1 ... K. Mooney
105 UP/P2F- MR PEACOCK (D) (Mrs B. Collins) W. G. Turner 8-11-6 ... A. Geering (4)
106 P/04002 WALNUT WONDER (C) (R. Hickman) R. Hickman 9-11-5 ... M. Perrett
107 2040-02 LORD LEIGHTON ★ (D) (S. Hunt) L. Kennard 8-11-5 ... B. Powell
108 012-123 NICKLE MOPPETT (C) (D) (P. Dresler) J. Webber 7-11-0 ... G. McCourt
110 2123- PENNY BANK (P. Mellon) I. Balding 5-10-10 ... B. Reilly
111 021F12/ BRONCHO'S COUSIN (W. Mackenzie-Coles) W. Mackenzie-Coles 9-10-7 ... R. Hoare
112 013-01P MISTY FORT (C) (J. Summer) T. Forster 6-10-7 ... R. Dunwoody
113 32020-3 FIRE DRILL (P. Norman) K. Bishop 9-10-5 ... P. Richards
116 0-02043 DISHCLOTH (C) (Lady S. Brooke) Lady S. Brooke 10-10-2 ... J. Bryan
117 2F0-031 WILL BOREEN (5lb ex) (D) (A. Duncan) M. McCormack 10-10-2 P. Barton
118 00P23-2 RADAJAR (D) (A. Morris) M. Tate 9-10-0 ... C. Smith
119 2130-34 CITADEL ROC (Miss R. Dudley) J. Bradley 9-10-0 ... G. Davies
1983: Dingbat 7-11-4 K. Mooney 9-2 J. Wright 11 ran.
Betting forecast: 7-2 Nickle Moppett, 4 Penny Bank, 9-2 Lord Leighton, 6 Walnut Wonder, Fire Drill, 8 Will Boreen, 10 Misty Fort, 14 Hadajar.
TOP FORM TIPS: Lord Leighton 8, Will Boreen 7, Nickle Moppett 6.

— BBC-1 —

1 30—FINALE JUNIOR HURDLE: 3YO; 2m; £5,451 (13 runners).

201 321111 BEAT THE RETREAT (D) (D. Steele) J. Jenkins 11-3 ... M. Perrett
202 13 JAMESMEAD (D) (BF) (L. Becker) D. Elsworth 11-3 ... C. Brown
203 0 ACE OF SPIES (D. Horswell) L. Kennard 11-0 ... B. Powell
204 P CATMAN (Miss I. Ritchie) N. Mitchell 11-0 ... Mr N. Mitchell
205 P4 COUNTRY CAP (R. Townsend) W. Kemp 11-0 ... Peter Hobbs
206 F43 DOUBLE QUICK TIME (Mrs W. McAlpine) R. Smyth 11-0 ... R. Berry
207 121F FREEFLOW (D) (G. Richards) G. Richards 11-0 ... N. Doughty
208 GAMBLER'S CUP (E. Turner) F. Winter 11-0 ... J. Francome
210 31 OUT OF THE GLOOM (D. Lowe) R. Hollinshead 11-0 ... J. J. O'Neill
211 00 STOCKSIGN (Mrs M. Bevan) Mrs M. Bevan 11-0 ... C. Smith
212 211 STRATHEARN (A. Budge) J. Fitzgerald 11-0 ... R. O'Leary
213 00 MAYSPRING (Lady S. Brooke) Lady S. Brooke 10-9 ... R. Hyett
214 221 WORLING-PEARL (D) (T. Stubbings) E. Alston 10-9 ... K. Doolan
1983: Dodgy Future 11-0 M. Perrett 2-1 S. Mellor 14 ran.
Betting forecast: 5-2 Beat The Retreat, 11-4 Freeflow, 4 Jamesmead, 6 Out of the Gloom, 10 Double Quick Time, Strathearn, 16 Ace of Spies, Worling-Pearl.
TOP FORM TIPS: Beat The Retreat 8, Freeflow 7, Out of the Gloom 6.

— BBC-1 —

2 05—CORAL WELSH NATIONAL (HANDICAP CHASE): 3¾m; £19,132 (18 runners).

301 10-3223 A KINSMAN (Mrs J. Brockbank) J. Brockbank 8-11-7 ... T. G. Dun
302 0220-11 RIGHTHAND MAN (Mrs M. Haggas) Mrs M. Dickinson 7-11-5 G. Bradley
303 3214-10 LUCKY VANE (Miss B. Swire) G. Balding 9-11-2 ... J. Burke
305 300P-31 PEATY SANDY (C/D) (Miss H. Hamilton) Miss H. Hamilton 10-10-9 ... R. Lamb
306 440P-12 TACROY (A. Duffield) M. Masson 10-10-8 ... A. Stringer
307 3311-00 ONAPROMISE (T. Macdonald) Denys Smith 8-10-5 ... C. Grant
308 F-11U01 KUMBI (D. Lunt) D. McCain 9-10-5 ... K. Doolan (4)
309 2811-23 ANDROMA (Wickersley Construction) J. Fitzgerald 7-10-4 ... M. Dwyer
310 P-P3210 HY-KO (4lb ex) (Mrs M. Brubaker) D. Gandolfo 8-10-4 P. Croucher (4)
311 411-312 HARDY LAD (BF) (Mrs J. Milligan) B. Wilkinson 7-10-2 ... R. O'Leary
312 310-202 TRISKA ★ (A. Hunt) L. Kennard 8-10-0 ... B. Powell
313 F204-12 KNOCK HILL (P. Thompson) J. Webber 8-10-0 ... G. Mernagh
314 4211-11 PLANETMAN (Mrs J. Lane) Mrs M. Dickinson 7-10-0 ... R. Earnshaw
316 4143-00 BRIDGE ASH (J. I. Johnson) J. I. Johnson 11-10-0 ... C. Smith
317 40-4432 MID DAY GUN (R. Gibbons) J. Webber 10-10-0 ... G. McCourt
318 20-0331 LITTLE POLVEIR (M. Shone) J. Edwards 7-10-0 ... P. Barton
319 P-22142 NORTHERN BAY (C) (Twocross Frozen Food) T. Bill 8-10-0 Philip Hobbs
320 13-2F4P COBLEY EXPRESS (C) (B. Isaac) B. Isaac 8-10-0 ... Mrs J. Mills
1983: Burrough Hill Lad 7-10-9 J. Francome 100-30 fav Mrs J. Pitman. 18 ran.
Betting forecast: 11-2 Lucky Vane, 6 Righthand Man, 8 Planetman, Hardy Lad, 8 Androma, 10 Little Polveir, Peaty Sandy, Tacroy, 12 Knock Hill, 14 A. Kinsman, 16 Kumbi.
TOP FORM TIPS: Planetman 8, Knock Hill 7, Righthand Man 6.

2 40—MOON NOVICE HURDLE: 3m; £1,420 (20 runners).

401 212230 CASSANOVA'S STORY (A. Nettley) J. Thorne 6-11-6 ... J. Hurst (7)
405 P00- CELTIC CAPRI (J. H. Cork) J. Cork 5-11-0 ... D. Wonnacott (5)
406 0 COOLARAP (A. Caton) Miss L. Bower 5-11-0 ... ——
408 F- DELATOR (P. Brewer) I. Wardle 7-11-0 ... N. Doughty
410 200-3 FIGHTER PILOT (P. Gray) M. Pipe 4-11-0 ... P. Leach
411 0340-3 HORN OF PLENTY (BF) (C. Moorsom) J. Edwards 5-11-0 ... P. Barton
414 000 LOLLYS PATCH (Mrs P. W. Harris) P. W. Harris 4-11-0 ... R. Strange
416 MAXI MOMENT (N. Stevens) N. Stevens 5-11-0 ... G. McCourt
417 0 MOON MARINER (W. Mullins) D. Elsworth 4-11-0 ... C. Brown
418 000-222 PAULATIM (BF) (C. Johnson) N. Henderson 4-11-0 ... P. Croucher (4)
419 0P PEACHLEY LANE (R. C. Pugh) R. Pugh 4-11-0 ... P. Carvill
422 0002-3 SALFORD RENTAL (Mrs F. Bowden) P. Bowden 6-11-0 ... S. Fitzgerald (7)
424 STABLE LAD (C. Moorsom) J. Edwards 5-11-0 ... ——
425 00-2 THE DUISE (D. Peake) K. Bailey 6-11-0 ... M. Richards
427 P BONNE APPLEINA (A. Fuller) R. Frost 7-10-9 ... J. Frost
428 0 CAUCHEMAR (N. Delamain) Mrs J. Barrow 5-10-9 ... Peter Hobbs
429 P03- HALATIONS FLAIR (K. May) Miss P. Neal 9-10-9 ... R. Hoare
430 0-42 JOSCILLA (Mrs P. Blackburn) L. Kennard 5-10-9 ... B. Powell
432 R LEILAWAY (T. J. Price) T. Price 4-10-9 ... E. Davies
434 MISSISSIPPI GIRL (Mrs M. Cook) J. Spearing 7-10-9 ... P. Warner
1983: No corresponding race.
Betting forecast: 6-4 Horn of Plenty, 11-2 Moon Mariner, 6 Paulatim, Fighter Pilot, 8 Joscilla, 10 Cassanova's Story, 12 Salford Rental, The Duise.
TOP FORM TIPS: Horn of Plenty 8, Fighter Pilot 7, Moon Mariner 6.

3 10—SCOUT NOVICE CHASE: 4-Y-0; 2m; £1,313 (8 runners).

501 0000-00 ALFRED DOUGLAS (C. McCormick) J. Cosgrave 10-12 ... J. Suthern
502 0 BELLIVER PRINCE (Cadl & Co) S. May 10-12 ... S. May
505 0-00004 NUDGE NUDGE (A. Birchall) S. Mellor 10-12 ... M. Perrett
507 00-2 RIG STEEL (R. Robbins) P. Cundell 10-12 ... C. Brown
508 0-00000 ROUND AGAIN (Sir R. Calley) A. Turnell 10-12 ... E. Waite
509 021400 TOMMY TUDOR (S. Richards) R. Hodges 10-12 ... Peter Hobbs
510 00-0000 GO PENTA (D. Mitchell) N. Ayliffe 10-7 ... M. Ayliffe
511 P0-2 STORMY HAZE ★ (W. Browne-Cole) R. Holder 10-7 ... P. Richards
1983: The Ganger Man 10-8 J. H. Davies 4-1 D. Elsworth 8 ran.
Betting forecast: 2 Nudge Nudge, 11-4 Rig Steel, 4 Tommy Tudor, 5 Stormy Haze, 6 Round Again.
TOP FORM TIPS: Nudge Nudge 8, Rig Steel 7.

3 40—KINGSBRIDGE HANDICAP HURDLE: 2½m; £1,099 (21 runners).

601 00F-010 CAMINO CRYSTAL ★ (C) (P. Doherty) S. Christian 8-11-13 K. Mooney
602 2121-F COUNTRY AGENT (J. Wilkinson) F. Winter 7-11-12 ... T. Gibson (7)
603 F2F00P- NO PARDON (D) (A. L. Hobbs) A. Hobbs 9-11-6 ... Philip Hobbs
606 300/PP0 LE GRAN BRUN (D) (Mrs A. Pollard) S. Cole 6-10-11 ... R. Strange
608 0003-13 NOTRE CHEVAL (C) (P. Hamlyn) S. Mellor 5-10-7 ... M. Perrett
609 P/P0040 HOPEFUL SHOT (R. Bennett) Mrs J. Pitman 7-10-5 ... M. Bastard
610 00P-334 LE LEVADOR (D. Lawson Hill) Mrs R. Lomax 5-10-4 ... A. Carroll
611 0321-30 PRINCESS ISIS (C. McClintock) B. Forsey 6-10-4 ... M. Nuttall
613 000-040 HIGH RIDGE ★ (E. Lodge) J. Perrett 5-10-3 ... J. Nolan
614 1P304-3 WILD CORN (B. Akerman) W. Fisher 5-10-3 ... P. Mornby
615 00301- PINK PATH (T. Bartlett) C. Popham 5-10-3 ... J. Hurst (7)
617 420FUP CROWNING MOMENT (H. Spearing) I. Wardle 9-10-0 ... ——
618 030000/ SUPER SYMPHONY (D) (B. Rutter) G. Balding 10-10-0 ... B. Reilly
619 0PP004 GOLD FLOOR ★ (D) (Mrs R. Bradley) J. M. Bradley 6-10-0 G. Davies
620 00-3000 KAMAG ★ (D. Holly) D. H. Jones 6-10-0 ... P. Carvill
623 02-0030 SWIFT ENCOUNTER (N. B. Thomson) N. Thomson 5-10-0 Mr J. Mitchell
624 40442-0 PRINCE'S DRIVE (B. Manning) B. Palling 6-10-0 ... C. Evans (7)
625 P03- HALATIONS FLAIR (K. May) Miss P. Neal 9-10-0 ... doubtful
627 00/P-0P SMITHY LANE (Miss S. Waterman) Miss S. Waterman 6-10-0 ... Miss S. Waterman
628 0004/P0 RACHEL STREET ★ (J. Harriman) J. Harriman 8-10-0 ... C. Grey
629 0/00-00 GOINGO (R. L. Brown) R. Brown 5-10-0 ... J. Brown (7)
630 00P-043 GETTING PLENTY (J. Davies) J. Roberts 5-10-0 ... P. Croucher (4)
1983: Wally Wombat 5-10-8 R. Rowe 8-1 M. Scudamore 22 ran.
Betting forecast: 7-2 Hopeful Shot, 4 Notre Cheval, 5 Wild Corn, Country Agent, 8 Camino Crystal, 10 Le Levador, 12 Princess Isis, 14 Swift Encounter.
TOP FORM TIPS: Le Levador 8, Camino Crystal 7, Wild Corn 6.

NOTTINGHAM

12.30 Conscription
1.00 State Case
1.30 Nassau Royale (nb)
2.00 Geata An Uisce
2.30 Swift Albany
3.00 Village Draper

★ DENOTES BLINKERS : GOING : GOOD TO SOFT

12 30—TOLLERTON NOVICE HURDLE: Div 1; 2m; £559 (13 runners).

3 3-2 CONSCRIPTION (C. G. Rowles Nicholson) J. Leigh 4-10-10 P. Blackburn (7)
4 00 FIEFDOM (E. Turner) G. Vergette 4-10-10 ... S. Johnson
7 0-00 LITTLE RAY (R. Bamsey) T. Bill 4-10-10 ... G. Williams (7)
8 MAN IN GREY (R. Dowsett) G. Pritchard-Gordon 4-10-10 ... S. Smith Eccles
12 MR QUICK (S. Spokes) W. Wharton 5-10-10 ... M. Brennan
13 000 NATIONAL DEBT ★ (G. Johns) Mrs J. Pitman 5-10-10 ... P. Tuck
14 0-0 RUCKLEY (P. Rohan) P. Rohan 4-10-10 ... M. Pepper
15 00- SHANOUSKA (Mrs F. Morris) J. L. Harris 4-10-10 ... J. A. Harris
17 300-U AVENITA LADY (A. Osborne) Mrs A. Finch 4-10-5 ... S. Keightley
18 00 COLONIAL CHARM (M. Clohessy) C. Spares 4-10-5 ... J. McLaughlin
19 33 ELUSIVE SPIRIT (Mrs S. Bavin) Mrs M. Rimell 4-10-5 ... S. Morshead
20 30030-0 HIGH STATE (Mrs P. McQuillan) P. Felgate 4-10-5 ... T. Wesley (7)
21 0- HOT BETTY (T. Wilson) R. Thompson 4-10-5 ... Jayne Thompson (7)
1983: No corresponding meeting.
Betting forecast: 9-4 Elusive Spirit, 3 Conscription, 9-2 Man In Grey, 7 Colonial Charm, 8 Mr Quick, 12 Avenita Lady.
TOP FORM TIPS: Elusive Spirit 8, Conscription 7, National Debt 6.

RICHARD BAERLEIN'S SELECTIONS
Nap: FREEFLOW (1.30 Chepstow)
Next best: FIGHTER PILOT (2.40 Chepstow)

1 0—COLWICK HANDICAP CHASE: 2m; £1,203 (6 runners).

3 22F1-0F LULAV (D) (C. Gaventa) D. Nicholson 6-11-7 ... P. Scudamore
4 0-12121 STATE CASE (5lb ex) (C/D) (M. Hogan) Mrs M. Dickinson 6-11-7 ... Mr R. J. Beggan
5 P2F20- SCOTTISH BAR (D) (I. Wilson) M. Lambert 10-11-5 ... P. A. Charlton
6 113221 GOOD TRADE (A. Lester) R. Perkins 9-10-7 ... Dal Williams
7 311-U21 KEVINSFORT (5lb ex) (D) (Mrs R. Haggie) J. Fitzgerald 6-10-6 ... P. Tuck
10 34P4-00 DEAR REMUS (C/D) (J. Nicholson) J. L. Harris 12-10-0 ... J. A. Harris
Betting forecast: 4-5 State Case, 9-4 Kevinsfort, 7 Good Trade, 8 Lulav, 16 Scottish Bar, 20 Dear Remus.
TOP FORM TIPS: State Case 9, Kevinsfort 7.

1 30—TOLLERTON NOVICE HURDLE: Div. 2; 2m; £567 (12 runners).

1 0/433-1 CORN STREET (D) (M. Wilkins) J. Bosley 6-11-3 ... Mr M. Bosley (7)
2 1 SEA REPPIN (D) (D. Vinson) J. Leigh 4-11-3 ... P. Blackburn (7)
5 ARTFUL CHARLEY (T. Riley) J. Fitzgerald 4-10-10 ... P. Tuck
6 00/F BALLYMURPHY (J. Charlton) Mrs A. Finch 6-10-10 ... S. Keightley
8 00-00 CAPTAIN PRY (Mrs M. Rogers) D. Nicholson 4-10-10 ... P. Scudamore
9 000-300 CRUDEN BAY (P. Bradley) P. Felgate 4-10-10 ... S. McNeill
11 0-03442 FUDGE DELIGHT (P. Stoner) O. Brennan 5-10-10 ... M. Brennan
13 HOPEFUL MISSION (R. Haggas) Mrs M. Dickinson 5-10-10 ... doubtful
20 P BROWN SANDS ★ (A. Cooke) G. Vergette 4-10-5 ... S. Johnson
22 43 NASSAU ROYALE (BF) (M. Purcell) Mrs M. Rimell 4-10-5 ... S. Morshead
23 0 NETHERDAR (R. Micklethwaite) W. Wharton 4-10-5 ... ——
24 00-P02 SPANISH BOLD (P. Band) M. Ryan 4-10-5 ... J. McLaughlin
25 SUTTONS HILL (C. Davies) A. James 4-10-5 ... G. Jones
Betting forecast: 11-8 Nassau Royale, 3 Corn Street, 7-2 Spanish Bold, 6 Fudge Delight, 8 Sea Reppin, 12 Captain Pry.
TOP FORM TIPS: Nassau Royale 9, Corn Street 7, Spanish Bold 6.

2 0—SOUTH YORKSHIRE ROAD SPECIALISTS' NOVICE CHASE: 3m; £1,724 (12 runners).

1 000-U01 BALLYGROOBY (T. Wragg) R. Perkins 7-11-5 ... Dal Williams
2 300331 COVENT GARDEN ★ (C) (G. Parton) W. Clay 6-11-5 ... S. O'Neill
3 000144 GEATA AN UISCE (P. Mina) O. Brennan 6-11-5 ... M. Brennan
4 00PP-10 LIZMOR (K. Hunt) R. Champion 5-11-4 ... S. Smith Eccles
7 0P-0FUP CRICKET WOOD (I. Herbert) H. Wharton 6-11-1 ... ——
8 P-F DANILOU (P. Pritchard) P. Pritchard 6-11-1 ... ——
12 00/P MACBETH (Miss A. Wilson) T. Bill 6-11-1 ... G. Williams (7)
14 0434-0P THE LAST PRINCE (Snailwell Stud) M. H. Easterby 7-11-1 ... D. Dutton
16 0 BLUE SPECKLE (C. Cottrell) K. White 6-10-10 ... P. Finch (7)
19 031-004 PAKA LOLO (J. Harnet) J. Fitzgerald 7-10-10 ... P. Tuck
20 0004/4 SOPHISTICATED (Mrs A. Tomkinson) Mrs A. Tomkinson 6-10-10 ... Mr M. Sowersby (7)
21 WOLD WALK (G. Mason) Mrs C. Clark 6-10-10 ... C. Pimlott
Betting forecast: 5-2 Geata An Uisce, 100-30 Covent Garden, 4 The Last Prince, 5 Paka Lolo, 7 Lizmor, 8 Ballygrooby, 14 Sophisticated.
TOP FORM TIPS: Geata An Uisce 8, Covent Garden 7, Paka Lolo 6.

2 30—BINGHAM HANDICAP CHASE: 2½m; £1,628 (7 runners).

1 122-1F2 GRINDERS (BF) (Needhams Butchers) E. Carter 6-11-10 P. A. Charlton
2 1P2P-12 GREEN BRAMBLE (BF) (Lady Plummer) N. Henderson 7-11-6 S. Smith Eccles
3 23P-02 ASSURED (Lady Oaksey) C. James 11-10-3 ... ——
4 220-114 ARTIC MENELEK (C) (P. Macktam) J. Fitzgerald 9-10-12 ... P. Tuck
5 0P-R031 SWIFT ALBANY (C) (R. Robinson) R. Robinson 10-10-6 Mandy Harrison (7)
6 242/1-4 ABERVANTER (D. T. Todd) D. Todd 7-10-0 ... K. Jones
8 34-2213 TIERENEE (R. Croser) T. Bill 6-10-0 ... G. Williams (7)
Betting forecast: 5-2 Green Bramble, 3 Grinders, 4 Arctic Menelek, 6 Assured, 7 Tierenee, 10 Swift Albany, 14 Abervanter.
TOP FORM TIPS: Green Bramble 8, Grinders 7.

3 0—CLIFTON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE: 2½m; £883 (14 runners).

1 2124-24 MISTY DALE (BF) (D. Rose) Mrs J. Pitman 6-11-11 ... M. Bowlby
2 200-401 SACRED PATH (7lb ex) (Mrs C. Heath) O. Sherwood 4-11-1 ... C. Cox
3 300F00 BLEATHWOOD (D) (R. Jennaway) K. White 8-10-8 ... P. Finch
4 104-40 VILLAGE DRAPER (BF) (Sir Spencer Le Marchant) F. Winter 5-10-6 ... J. Duggan
5 12200-0 FINALE SEPT (W. Eason) N. Fleming 4-10-4 ... A. Welsh
6 00/21-P LONE RAIDER (D. McDuffie) J. L. Harris 7-10-3 ... Vicki Harris
8 000014- MOUNTAINEER (C. Booth) J. Leigh 5-10-2 ... P. Blackburn
9 43-0300 ROUTE MARCH (J. Walker) P. Pritchard 5-10-1 ... G. Williams
10 00000-P JUKE BOX JIMMY ★ (G. Faber) J. Doyle 6-10-0 ... J. D. Davies
11 000410 NARSINH (St Claude Racing Stables) L. Lightbrown 5-10-0 ... K. Sims
12 P-30042 NORTHERN KNIGHT (M. Cheetham) R. Thompson 7-10-0 ... Jayne Thompson
13 0313F- STEP ASHORE (Mrs A. Kravis) Mrs K. Coulman 5-10-0 ... D. Wills
14 1003-00 INCENSE (H. Attwood) P. Bevan 4-10-0 ... R. Hatfield
17 00-P400 PANROCK (K. Pinfield) J. Cosgrave 4-10-0 ... T. Pinfield
Betting forecast: 3 Misty Dale, 4 Village Draper, 5 Sacred Path, 7 Bleathwood, Route March, 10 Narsinh, Mountaineer, 12 Northern Knight.
TOP FORM TIPS: Village Draper 10, Misty Dale 7, Sacred Path 6.

RESULTS

FAKENHAM

1.0 (2m 5f Ch): 1, OVERSWAY, S. Smith Eccles (2-5 fav); 2, Abo Ace (12-1); 3, Kingsmoe's Girl (12-1). Also: 7 The Governor 5th, 12 Ling f, 16 Mountbrille p.u., 20 Alumnus f, 25 Bantel Boy, 33 Commander Christy f, Italian Affair 4th, Slip O'Grace 6th, Beechwood Lad u.r. (12 ran) 4l, 20, 1½, 4, nk (Mrs D. Haine). Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £2.40, £2.20 Dual F: £5.20. CSF: £8.16.

1.30 (2m Hdle): 1, VAIGLY REL, Mr S. Sherwood 4-7 fav); 2, Star Of Safford (25-1); 3, Legs Of Man (9-2). Also: 8 No Butts p.u., The Knife 5th, 14 Vestal Telegraph p.u., 33 Scottische, collapsed and died, Sovereign Shot 4th. (8 ran) 6l, 4, 2½, 5 (P. Mitchell). Tote: £1.30; £1, £3.60, £1.90. Dual F: £17.30. CSF: £15.65.

2.0 (3m Ch): 1, PRINCE CARLTON, Miss C. Saunders (5-2 jt fav); 2, Gold Casto (8-1); 3, Meggies Dove (5-2 jt fav). Also: 3 Sea Splash 4th, 11-2 Seamus O'Flynn p.u., 25 Better Red p.u. (6 ran) 2l, 25, 4 (Mrs J. Bloom). Tote: £3.10; £1.40, £3.70. Dual F: £18.30; CSF: £19.18.

2.30 (2m Hdle): 1, PAGAN SUN, A. Carroll (11-10 fav); 2, Gulfland (6-1); 3, Nice One Andy (5-1). Also: 5 Humberside Lady, 8 Sylvan Barnum, 10 Downtown Hustler 4th, 12 Tamertown Lad, 14 State Budget, 20 Polynor 5th, 25 Bassett Boy 6th, 33 Mr Menacing, 50 About Time Too, Aesculapius, Kidswood, Penny Lady pu (15 ran). 10l, 3, 5, 2, 4l (A. Bailey). Tote: £2.30; £1.40, £1.80, £2.90; Dual F: £8.70. CSF: £10.92.

3.0 (2m Ch): 1, LEITH HILL FLYER, A. Wright (4-1); 2, Cole Porter (4-1); 3, Smiling Cavalier (15-8 fav). Also: 7-2 Dee Park 4th, Vitiago 5th (5 ran). 10l, 2½, sh hd, 5 (P. Mitchell). Tote: £3.50; £1.50, £1.70; Dual F: £8.00; CSF: £18.89.

3.30 (2m Hdle): 1, DIDDELO, R. Rowell (4-1); 2, Princess Henham (4-1); 3, Esreillak Boy (4-1). Also: 11-4 fav The Diplomat 4th, 4 Glenhawk 6th, 10 Saltterfield, 12 Expeditious 5th, Goldoration, 33 Captain Oates, Friday Street, Alan Stuart (11 ran). 1½l, 3, hd, 1, 6. (B. Wise). Tote: £15.00; £2.20, £3.20, £1.90. Dual F: £67.20. CSF: £23.09. Tricast: £67.15.
PLACEPOT: £31.00.

KELSO

12.15 (2m Hdle): 1, MENINGI, N. Tinkler (7-1); 2, Miss Goldingay (11-8 fav); 3, Tseles (5-1). Also: 4 Bunrannoch House, 14 Special Settlement 5th, 16 Poona Express, 20 Half Shaft 4th, Moher, 25 Lady Locket, 33 Winter Bonnet, 50 Joca 6th, Magnox, Mr Sponge pu, Stan's Folly, Top o' the Cream. (15 ran). 3l, 15, 3, 5, 1. (N. Tinkler). Tote: £9.40; £4.40, £1.00, £1.40. Dual F: £5.80. CSF: £16.95.

12.45 (2½m Ch): 1, SUPER SOLO, S. Charlton (4-1); 2, Little Frenchman (11-1); 3, Stand Back (6-1). Also: 6-4 fav For-U-More f, 3 Gearys Cold Rolled f, 20 Connagh pu. (6 ran). 4l, 6. (T. Craig). Tote: £7.20; £4.80, £3.40. Dual F: £12.20. CSF: £36.05.

1.15 (2½m Hdle): 1, RISING FOREST, M. Dwyer (11-4 Fav); 2, Glen Lochan (7-1) 3, Roman Dusk (12-1). Also: 4 Yank Brown 6th, 5 Target Man 5th, 8 Little Harry, 11 Retribution, Autumn Ballet, 20 Hasty Import, Secret Lake 4th, 25 Silver Dreamer pu, Susanna, 33 Miss Woody pu, Patchwork Saint pu, 50 Blackadder Brig f, Playagain pu, Gold Lame, Miss Jay Cee. (18 ran) 4l, 2, 10, 2½, 5 (J. Fitzgerald). Tote: £3.70; £1.10, £2.30, £5.0; Dual F: £9.80; C.S.F.: £24.50.

1.45 (2m Ch): 1, REAY'S SONG, C. Grant (3-1); 2, Mr Pongee (9-4); 3, Colonel Creole (12-1). Also: 7-4 Fav Old Head 4th, 6 Santago pu, (5 ran) 8l, 25, 1. (M. Naughton) Tote: £3.30; £1.20, £2.70; Dual F: £4.80; C.S.F.: £9.82.

2.15 (3m Ch): 1, PALM CROSS, P. Barry (15-8 fav); 2, Ramoa's Son (5-2); 3, Wellhill (14-1). Also: 3 Mighty Run 4th, 10 Hummelmoor f, 33 Sweet Stella f. (6 ran) 2l, 10, 15. (Miss J. Eaton). Tote: £2.80; £2.70, £1.10; Dual F: £1.20; CSF: £6.27.

2.45 (2m Hdle): 1, ALBERTAT, C. Grant (10-1); 2, Thorbell Arch (5-1); 3, Armenistis (14-1). Also: 2 fav Joudale 5th, 7 Victory Boy, Part-Ex 6th, 8 Tarchin 4th, Blue Tarquin, 20 King's Holt, (9 ran) 3l, 2, hd, 3, 8 (Denys Smith). Tote: £13.40; £3.60, £1.20, £8.50; Dual F: £18.50; CSF: £55.23. Tarchin won from Albertat and Thorbell Arch but was placed 4th after an objection by the third. Armenistis was promoted to 3rd place.
PLACEPOT: £43.65.

Tarchin demoted to 4th

Claiming rider, Joe O'Gorman (18), was suspended for two days for careless riding at Kelso yesterday on Tarchin in the Cardona Handicap Hurdle. O'Gorman, whose ban takes effect on December 30 and 31, took his mount ahead after the last to beat Albertat and Thorbell Arch, but Steve Charlton, rider of the third, objected to Tarchin for "crossing and sandwiching me on the run-in."

After a lengthy inquiry the stewards upheld Charlton's objection and disqualified Tarchin, placing him fourth. Albertat was awarded the race, with Thorbell Arch second and Armenistis third.

Tarchin's trainer, John Leadbetter, said afterwards that he would appeal against the stewards' decision. "It was very unfair. If O'Gorman was guilty of careless riding my horse should have been placed last."

Albertat's victory completed a double for Chris Grant, who earlier partnered Reays Song, an eight lengths winner of the Elibank Selling Hurdle. Grant has now ridden 20 winners this season.

Super Solo made it two wins at Kelso within a week when landing the Keilder Handicap Chase. He will bid for a hat-trick in the Gamebird Handicap Chase at Newcastle next week.

David Leadbitter was stretchered off the course with concussion when his mount Gearys Cold Rolled toppled over at the 12th and will miss the big Boxing Day programme.

Pagan Sun slammed his rivals in the West Norfolk Novices Hurdle at Fakenham yesterday to become a 25-1 chance with William Hill for the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle.

Thrown in at the deep end on his debut over timber at Cheltenham earlier this month, when he did not jump well, Terry Ramsden's colt was fluent this time and won by ten lengths.



BRIDGE

Rixi Markus

THE Pakistani champion, Zia Mahmoud, must be near the top of everybody's ranking list. He is not only a master player, he is liked by everybody — particularly, of course, by his partners and team mates, but even his opponents do not mind losing to him because of his charming behaviour.

Here is a hand which Zia played recently: an excellent example of a situation in which it pays not to draw trumps too quickly.

Dealer South: North-South vulnerable.

North
♠ 4 2
♥ Q 6 4
♦ K 5 4 3
♣ A 8 7 6

West
♠ 10 5
♥ 10 8 2
♦ Q 9 7
♣ K 9 5 4 2

East
♠ Q J 9 8 7
♥ K J 9 5
♦ 8
♣ Q J 10

South
♠ A K 6 3
♥ A 7 3
♦ A J 10 6 2
♣ 3

It was a typical rubber bridge auction:

South Mahmoud	West	North	East
1D	NB	2D	2S
Double	NB	3D	NB
5D	Double	NB	NB
NB			

West led the ten of spades against 5D doubled. Zia won with the king, crossed to the ace of clubs and ruffed a club in the closed hand. He then cashed the ace of spades and the ace of hearts and cross-ruffed in spades and clubs for the next four tricks. This gave him nine tricks, and the ace and king of diamonds were still to come. 5D doubled and made, and game and rubber to North-South.

Notice that it would not have helped West to ruff the third or fourth round of spades, for declarer would simply have discarded a losing heart from dummy. The secret of the hand was not to draw even a single round of trumps: it was essential for South to use his and dummy's trumps separately.

The presentation of the annual International Bridge Press Association awards took place during the recent World Team Olympiad in Seattle, and Zia won the Solomon award for the best-played hand. This was the full deal, which occurred during the 1983 Bermuda Bowl Competition.

North
♠ J 10 4 3
♥ J 3 2
♦ Q J 7 5 4 2
♣ —

West
♠ Q 8 5
♥ 9 6 4
♦ 8 3
♣ K 10 8 5 2

East
♠ 9 7 6
♥ 7 5
♦ A K 10 9 6
♣ J 6 3

South
♠ A K 2
♥ A K Q 10 8
♦ —
♣ A Q 9 7 4

South Mahmoud	West	North	East
			NB
2C	NB	2D	Double
2H	NB	3D	NB
4C	Double	5C	NB
5S	NB	6H	NB
NB	NB		

West had shown an unusually active interest in the bidding, asking for explanations of almost every bid. This persuaded Zia to back his table "feel" and place West with the king of clubs and the queen of spades, and East with the top diamonds.

Declarer ruffed the opening diamond lead and played to ruff three clubs in dummy, using the ace of spades and a second diamond ruff in order to cross back to the closed hand. He then crossed to the king of spades and drew the outstanding trumps in three rounds, and West could not escape: his last three cards were queen of spades and king-ten of clubs, and he was thrown in with the spade and forced to lead into Zia's ace-queen tenace in clubs.

THE annual bridge festival in St. Moritz is taking place from January 14 to 25. There is one new event, a ladies' pairs and men's pairs. This is a popular holiday because it is possible to combine bridge and winter sports, and hotels offer special terms. Further details from Count Fabricotti, Palace Hotel, St. Moritz, Switzerland.

THE Christmas bridge competition will appear in Monday's paper.

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DIARY



CHESS

Leonard Barden

THE chess olympics, with nearly 90 participating countries, provide one of the rare opportunities on the world calendar for unknowns from small countries to make their mark. Upset results, where established GMs lose to new names, are a feature, while sometimes truly great players, such as Keres at Warsaw 1935, or Larsen at Moscow 1956 make a memorable debut.

This week's two games were both 1984 olympic surprises: their theme is that if you want to beat a stronger opponent, mix it tactically and go for his king.

IM Alon Greenfeld (Israel) — GM Walter Browne (US)
Reti Opening (Salonica 1984)

1 N-KB3 P-QB4 2 P-B4 N-KB3
3 N-B3 P-K3 4 P-KN3 P-QN3
5 B-N2 B-N2 6 P-Q4 PxP
7 QxP B-K2 8 O-O P-Q3

Black plans the well-known hedgehog formation with O-O, QN-Q2, P-QR3, and back rank manoeuvres waiting for a chance to strike with P-Q4 or P-QN4. White's next, a Korchnoi idea, aims to dislocate the black formation either by BxKN or (if QN-Q2) by N-QN5.

9 B-N5 P-QR3 10 BxN BxB
11 Q-Q3 Q-B2 12 QR-Q1 B-K2
13 N-Q4 BxB 14 KxB N-B3
15 P-B4 P-N3?

A weakness with serious consequences. Better NxN 16 QxN O-O, planning QR-Q1 and Q-B4 to restrain White's attack.

16 P-N3 NxN 17 QxN O-O
18 B-B3 KR-Q1?

The wrong rook. Now White storms the king's defences.

19 P-KB5! NPxP 20 P-K4 PxP
21 QxKP R-KB1 22 QR-KB1 B-N4
23 Q-N4 P-B3 24 R-B6 K-R2
25 N-K4! BxR 26 NxB ch K-R1
27 Q-K4 Resigns

Alon Greenfeld, Israel's No. 1, is aged 20.

GM Jan Smejkal (Czech)-Harinlal Aturupane (Sri Lanka)
Queen's Gambit, Slav Defence (Salonica 1984)

1 N-KB3 N-KB3 2 P-B4 P-K3
3 N-B3 P-Q4 4 P-Q4 P-B3
5 P-K3 QN-Q2 6 P-QR3 B-Q3
7 B-K2 O-O 8 O-O R-K1
9 P-QN4 PxP 10 BxP P-K4
11 B-R2 Q-K2 12 B-N2 P-KR3
13 P-K4 PxP 14 NxP N-B1

White's position is more active but next move the GM puts his queen on an exposed square — better 15 Q-B2.

15 Q-Q2 R-Q1 16 QR-Q1 B-N5
17 P-B3 P-B4! 18 N-Q5 NxN
19 BxN B-K3 20 N-B5 BxN
21 PxB N-R2 22 P-N5 R-Q2
23 KR-K1 Q-B1 24 B-B3?

White still has a fair game with his bishop pair, but now, trying for a blockade on the QR2-KB7 diagonal, he stumbles again. More accurate is 24 Q-B3.

24 ... QR-Q1 25 Q-R2 P-B5!
26 QxP BxQRP 27 K-R1 R-B1
28 Q-N3 R(B1)xB! 29 QxB N-N5

The turning point. Black activates his pieces just in time to exploit White's growing clock problems before the move 40 control. In the sequel, the GM loses the threat of the game and collapses into a mate.

30 Q-N3 BxR 31 RxB N-B3
32 B-B4 Q-B4 33 Q-R2? Q-Q5
34 P-N4? Q-B6 35 R-K2? QxP ch
36 Resigns

This was the upset of the Olympics opening round; the Czechs, silver medallists in 1982, never recovered.

No. 1,835



White mates in three moves, against any defence (by A. Klinke). This looks a simple puzzle, with the black king trapped on the edge of the board. But the diagram proved hard for earlier solvers who took an hour or more to crack it. If you succeed in 10-15 minutes, reckon it a fast time.

Solution No. 1,834: White K at KR1, Q at K1, Rs at QN7, QB6, B at QR8, N at KR7, Ps at Q4, K3, K5, and KN3. Black K at KB6, R at KN1, B at KB4, P at KN5. Mate in two. 1 R-QB3 (threat 2 P-K4) K-K5 2 R-QN8, or if B-K5 2 R-KB7, or if R-QB1 2 N-N5.

The Christmas chess puzzle will appear in Monday's paper.

Agreement on Sunday racing

● The Jockey Club has set up a working party under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Senior Steward, General Sir Cecil Blacker, to examine as a matter of urgency, the implications of Sunday racing with on and off-course betting. This follows a wide measure of agreement reached at a meeting called by the Senior Steward Lord Manton, on Tuesday, 18th December, which was attended by ten senior representatives of the racing and betting industries. A working party will report in time to participate in the general debate on the liberalisation of Sunday trading, following last month's publication of the Auld Committees report.

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DIARY

NOT a bright start to Christmas for the personal risk insurance profession. Thirty of the top men in the field went out for a Christmas celebration lunch at Corts Wine Bar in Chancery Lane, London, last week, of whom at least 12 went down with severe Salmonella poisoning.

This is not the sort of risk one expects to come across in such a profession. Consequently the host, Mr Barry Lewis, a personal risk solicitor and 11 guests have consulted m'learned friends and are suing the wine bar.

M'learned friend in question, Mr Tony Patterson, is most concerned that it took nearly a week for the environmental health specialists from Westminster Council, temple of efficiency, to do anything. The first three days were wasted while Westminster argued that the wine bar was in fact in Camden. In the end Corf's called in the EHO from Westminster themselves.

There is, says the manager Ian McLean, to be no prosecution. He has been doing the cooking himself while watching the results of tests on staff.

THE total raised for the Christmas appeal for families of striking miners continues to mount up and now stands at more than £360,000. Some £100,000 of that has arrived in the past six days following a further appeal from Mrs Glenys Kinnock. Paul Weller of Style Council has given £9,000 and even Spectator readers have managed £1,000 between them. The most unwarranted and surprising sum was that resulting from a Private Eye satirical swipe at the advertisement, signed by a few Dave and Dierdre Spart figures instead of the original list of worthies, but carrying the same address. That raised £200.

LABOUR MPs wondering anxiously what the new year will bring could do worse than consult Tribune's Christmas game charting the snakes and ladders of reselection. To give the general drift: "Militant puts up a candidate against you. On the Isle of Wight and in Liverpool, miss a go. Everywhere else go forward three." . . . "Writing in the News of the World, Woodrow Wyatt describes you as the 'sensible candidate.' Miss four goes." . . . "Neil Kinnock says you will never be a Labour candidate while he is leader. Go forward two." . . . "You take out a writ against Tribune. In the outcry that follows you are forced to retire from the game. . . ." The rules add: "Kicking, punching and swearing are banned except in Brent" and there is a final caution: "If you win, don't be too smug. If five years' time you get to play RESELECTION all over again." You've got to laugh.

THE Bristol Unemployed Guardian Readers Association (BUGRA) whose formation was announced in the letters columns recently has had its first meeting and has now advanced so far as to issue its agenda for its next — at the Jolly Cobblers, King Street, on January 10 at 8.30. The three main subjects for discussion are as follows: 1) a call for far easier Guardian Crosswords; 2) a demand that the Guardian be available at half-price for UB 40 holders, and 3) BUGRA insists that the full investigative resources of the Guardian be employed to find out if Shula Archer ever gets to marry boring old Mark Hebden. There follows an unwanted Christmas present exchange.

CHRISTMAS will probably not be all it might for Jim Smith, faced with the thought of his bank about to foreclose on a loan of £50,000 to cover the legal costs he has incurred since being made redundant by Aish and Co in 1981 after warning of the practice of making allowances for excess profits from defence contracts. Mr Smith's prolonged and expensive appeals against his dismissal have got nowhere. All of which is given added piquancy by the talks that have recently been concluded between MoD and Aish during which it was agreed that the company should repay a six figure sum relating to excess profits on defence contracts. The company—which has denied it got rid of Mr Smith because of his warnings—had no comment to make yesterday.

Alan Rusbridger



Lagos, Jerusalem, Delhi, Paris: WALTER SCHWARZ finds no stranger place than home

Two cheers for Britain

THE BRITISH are indeed nicer to live with, in their homely and inefficient way. This we expected. But we have had some surprises after 15 years abroad — nine of them in rural France.

My article last summer about living with the French was much attacked for being harsh and intolerant. One critic suggested I do a piece on the British when I got back. "You'll be surprised," he suggested.

Well, British Rail is a surprise, for a start. Colchester (where we now live) is about as far from London as Compiegne (where we used to live) was from Paris — but there the similarity ends. The Essex line is a national — no, an international disgrace.

I will not be boring about details — guards who don't turn up, leaves on the line, signals failures — because they are too familiar: I am told the Southern Region is worse.

And then at last, when British Rail has persevered into Liverpool Street, I have to cope with London Transport. The Paris metro stops at stations: the tube stops between stations.

The British have always been cheerful in adversity. But the utter resignation of train and tube travellers — the way people actually smile at each other when the train lurches to a halt after it has only just started — strikes me as decadent.

My French friends (I did have a few) were not amused when I wrote that their homeland can feel to an expatriate Briton like a developing country — with its authoritarian institutions, racist police, rudimentary commercial services and adventurous drivers.

I now see that the converse is true: they could find us underdeveloped. Or perhaps post-developed, which is worse. It certainly feels worse, when a jam-packed tube stops for the fifth time between Euston and St Pancras and nobody finds it remarkable. Here are the stress and natural deprivations of city life without even the elementary compensation of decent transport. It's like that in Bombay.

French motorways have tolls, which is a bore, but between *payages* they are open for traffic. For years at a time. What has happened here? Has the M1 *ever* been free from roadworks in the past ten years? People conjecture in whispers about corrupt contractors, as they might in Nigeria.

In Paris I once asked the Communist boss of RATP, the greater Paris transport system, why the right-wing governments of the past had invested so lavishly in cheap public transport. He replied without hesitation: "Because it is good economics."

Mr Claude Quin's view is clearly shared by Mr Ken Livingstone. Is it shared by all those motorists who brave costly London traffic jams because going by train and tube is even worse?

The British, I insist, are nicer to live among than the French. One is assumed to be a friend unless proved an enemy: in France it's the other way round. People here call you "love," even "darling." They like helping: they're sorry if they can't and say so. A Parisian shopkeeper who hasn't got what you want is triumphant.

Surprisingly, those nice British people in shops and stores often don't know what they are selling, or how much it costs or, if it is out of stock, when it might arrive. "I haven't a clue," says many a charming shop assistant with joy and pride.

French salesmen are slick, pushy and rarely charming. But what they sell is actually available. In France "la crise" appears to be about falling demand, while our British recession looks more like lack of supply.

French plumbers and builders are as elusive as British, but when they finally turn up they get on with the job frantically fast, so they can get on to the next. In Britain they have tea breaks. They are nice to talk to, and the jobs gets done in the end.

We arrived, six months into the miners' strike, to find Britain more divided than when we had left. The French were passionately divided over Algeria in the sixties, after which De Gaulle gave then a consensus which still holds. Now you can mix pro-Mitterrand with anti-Mitterrand dinner guests. Over here, pro- and anti-Thatcherites would be ill-matched.

The un-British violence at the picket-lines is mercifully contained. Away from the pits, people are still more tolerant and quietly sociable than continentals.

I had expected a harsher, more glaring divide between employed and unemployed. But the gap is obscured by a flourishing black economy that may soon rival Italy's. Many people do part-time jobs and in our village people wear different hats at different times of day.

Our archaic licensing laws and the inhumane banning of children from pubs were a culture-shock for us, after the informal, all-purpose French cafes. Yet pubs are special: a vital part of Britain. Cafes have separate tables, pubs have bars and firesides where people can talk to strangers. You can talk, or listen, or stay apart: a precious freedom.

☐ "You must miss French food," people say, with that new British tendency to assume foreigners do things better. We do miss cheeses and pates and fresh fruit. But British food has improved in 15 years — especially bread.

We remembered white, square, flabby bread, but you can now buy wholemeal loaves, freshly baked in the supermarket. Your French *baguette*, when the holiday novelty has worn off, can be spongy, and stale in half an hour, because many *boulangers* use frozen dough.

Living in the country is less of an adventure in Essex than in Oise. We have found no equivalent, so far, of our French neighbour who killed eight of our cats and cut down 12 of our trees.

English farmers seem modern and sophisticated after the narrow, peevish peasants of Oise. Our Essex neighbours sound like the Archers with a better-written script. One writes about his trade in the Essex County Standard while his wife writes Mills and Boon novels on her word-processor.

France does have its soulful farmers, usually in the Midi, and its militant sheep-farmers on the Larzac plateau. But these are pioneers, self-conscious exceptions. Their effect depends on the contrast with the macho peasant who has only to see a tree or a shrub to reach for his chain-saw.

Most French people still think they're on the way up: the British have long been on the way down and they know it. Some see this as the beginning of a post-industrial age. West Germans also talk about this, especially the young, and the Greens. The French still think that growth will return and their *force de frappe* will protect them from war.

We had looked forward to British television after the simpering *spadkerines* and obsequious commentaries of Paris. But the box under Thatcher has become dull and biased. Slanted coverage of the miners' strike has been widely noticed.

Cross-Channel differences are qualitatively neutral: we have different priorities. The French have hypermarkets with metres and metres of exquisite food on display. The British have hypermarkets, equally huge, for DIY and garden stuff.

France dedicates it temples to stomach and palate, Britain to home and weekend. Which is the higher deity? I'm not sure.

Our five bilingual children have settled down well — partly because we had gone to the trouble of choosing an area with good state schools. This education hassle is absent in France, which has a nation-wide state system as good in one town or village as another.

We had expected the children to enjoy shorter hours, no school on Saturday mornings and less homework. But our 12-year-old grammar schoolgirl finds this all a bit frivolous. "Lessons are so short you can't get down to anything serious."

Our university students like the tutorial system which the French don't have. French universities often look and feel more like factories open to anyone with the baccalaureat. They charge no fees, but there is no maintenance grant.

We, the returned parents, straitened by British income tax, chastened by paltry British family allowances, fleeced by British Rail and London Transport, are grateful for such university grants as Mrs Thatcher still allows. So are our student children who, unlike French students, don't depend on parental goodwill.

ENDPIECE

Roy Hattersley

I HOPE to spend part of my Christmas holiday in burning books. My orgy of literary destruction may well turn out to be less spectacularly barbarous than the vision of vandalism which I now contemplate.

Indeed, I may have to eschew fire and flames altogether and simply consign the offending volumes to the Westminster pavements' edge and the mercy of the Corporation Cleansing Department. But I find the idea of destroying books so shocking than I can only contemplate such behaviour in the language of Constantinople, Wittenberg and Berlin. A pall of smoke already hangs over my conscience.

The theoretical justification for my conduct is that I am conducting a necessary bibliograchical cull. For the fittest to survive without unacceptable damage to dust jackets and covers, the least valuable members of the species have to be weeded out, sacrificed in the interests of the whole race. Of course, euthanasia will only be imposed on the most tired and decrepit specimens. And only the most weird and useless mutations will be put down.

But even as I struggle to invent moral justification for the impending slaughter, a still small voice within me asks an unanswerable question. What sort of a bookshelf is it which so undervalues its individual members that it is prepared to butcher the week in order to give Lebensraum to the strong.

Yet I have no real alternative. If the new books with which I am bombarded every week are to be given a decent home, some of the older inhabitants of my library will have to meet a mercifully painless end. North and Hillard's primer (like the English University Press Teach Yourself Latin with which it has co-habited for years) will be the first to be frogmarched into oblivion.

It will be followed by Where to Stay in Scotland (1956), A History of the Sheffield School Board, Volume XXII of the Manchester School of Economic and Social Studies (property of the Department of Economics and Commerce, the University of Hull), Climatology by A. Austin Miller D.Sc. and the Vanderbilt Law Review's supplement on Rule 10b-5 and the Stockholders' Derivative Action.

I shall then turn on the queer and the quaint. Budapest Through the Eyes of an Architect by Palgramastoi, Irwin and Bretts, The History of Chints and In Defiance of the Elements, "a personal view of Qatar." The next candidates for the blindfold and final request will be the wholly incomprehensivie foreigners who have lived like aliens within the carefully arranged community ever since they travelled back with me from foreign parts.

Le Conseil d'Etat 1850/1950 brings back happy memories of a visit to Luxembourg and the Winston Churchill Memorial Lecture, but I never read it in bed at night, and the Handbuch der Schweizerischen Aussenpolitik (although nostalgically reminiscent of a weekend in Vienna) has always caused more tension than tranquillity. For I have never been sure if Riklin/Haug Binswanger (Herausgeber) ... as distinct from Schrittenreiche der Schweizerischen Gesellschaft — are the names of the authors or the sub-titles.

Had I been able to add to my little library at a pace which I determined I would have found space to provide refuge for such essentially harmless hardbacks. However, one of the consequences of writing a weekly column is the almost daily receipt of a well-filled jiffy bag.

A few are — I suppose — sent by avaricious advertising managers who hope for an Endpiece mention to augment the regular reviews. But most, I insist, are personally packed and posted by old style publishers — men with floppy hair and horn-rimmed spectalces who wear Fair Isle pullovers under their tweed jackets and say "jolly good" when manuscripts are delivered in time. Such men work in publishing houses just for the joy of being in close proximity to books. And they spread the pleasure about by distributing new titles through the post.

I feel an absolute obligation to keep and cherish everything that they send me. Nicaragua for Beginners ("A Writer's and Reader's documentary comic book"), The Case of Israel (which turns out to be the case *against* Israel) by Roger Garaudy, "one of France's leading Marxist theoreticians" who "in 1982 became a Muslim"; Bernard Levin's The Way We Live Now — nothing is too boring or badly written to receive a good home.

They are the price which I am glad to pay for the books that I open when I should be answering urgent correspondence and read surreptitiously behind committee papers. I think of the book bombardment as a package deal. If the coffee table tributes to the Gulf States and the slim volumes of verse by unknown Northern poets did not hail down upon me, I would not see the occasional flash of lightning.

The opening paragraph of Raymond Williams's introduction to The English Novel from Dickens to Lawrence has reverberated around my head since its unsolicited arrival.

"I keep thinking of those twenty months in 1847 and 1848 in which these novels were published: Dombey and Son, Wuthering Heights, Vanity Fair, Jane Eyre, Mary Barton, Town and Country, The Tenant of Wildfell Hall."

And for quite different reasons each volume of the Penguin Lives And Letters series occupies my agitated attention for much of the morning on which it arrives. The Daughters of Karl Marx write unexceptional postscripts — "How well you manage with the Monroes. Auntie sends you her best love and so does Uncle." But if it is worth recording that Chips Channon once noted that "Diana drove me in her dirty car with a trailer full of swill behind into Bognor where we bought large lobsters" it is worth recording anything.

I shall, however, keep and cherish both the Channon Diaries and the Marx letters, acting on the principle that all books, if not born equal, are entitled to life, liberty and appropriate shelf space. However, with life so with books. The time comes for the old and worn to pass on, I shall not enjoy the last rites. Cremation would provide the best catharsis. But if they are recycled the books will live again. The Corporation dust cart carries them to immortality — a state which many of the books which I receive cannot have previously expected.



Mrs Gillick with five of her 10 children

DAVID PANNICK analyses the Court of Appeal's controversial stand against children's rights

A bitter pill to swallow

AT THE beginning of this month, Lord Hailsham acknowledged that from time to time "a judge says a particularly silly thing." Three Court of Appeal judges this week said a number of extremely silly things in deciding Mrs Gillick's case about contraception and the under 16s. The Court of Appeal judgment that parents must be consulted before doctors prescribe contraceptives to a child under 16 adopts a version of "public policy" which is contrary to common sense, is incompatible with children's rights and has no justification in law.

In 1980 the DHSS issued a notice on family planning to area health authorities. It stated that doctors should exercise special care "not to undermine parental responsibility" in the treatment of children. It advised doctors to try to persuade the child to involve the parent and noted that "it would be most unusual to provide advice about contraception without parental consent." However, it added, to abandon the principle of confidentiality in doctor-patient relationships for children under 16 "might cause some not to seek professional advice at all. They could then be exposed to the immediate risks of pregnancy and of sexually-transmitted disease. . . . This would apply particularly to young people whose parents are, for example, unconcerned, entirely unresponsive, or grossly disturbed." In such "exceptional cases," it would be for the doctor to decide whether or not to prescribe contraceptives to the child under 16.

In July 1983 Mr Justice Woolf dismissed the claim of Mrs Gillick that she was entitled to an assurance that none of her daughters under the age of 16 would be given contraceptives without her knowledge and consent. The Court of Appeal was more sympathetic to her complaint. Lord Justice Parker held that a girl under 16 could not give valid consent to such treatment and that for a doctor to treat such a girl without her parent's knowledge and consent, save in an "emergency," would "infringe the legal rights of the parent."

The Court of Appeal judges were eager to emphasise that they were "concerned only with the legal position." This is not surprising. It would be difficult to justify their decision on any other ground. As Woolf J. stated in his persuasive judgment, the statistics of pregnancies among the very young "indicate to those whose religious beliefs do not dictate the contrary, that some of those children, at any rate, were very much in need of assistance in avoiding such pregnancies."

The health authority is not, as Lord Justice Parker suggested, providing "facilities which would enable girls under 16 the more readily to commit sexual intercourse" —they already have everything they need — but is protecting the girl against the consequences of sexual intercourse which may well occur whether or not contraceptives are provided.

The Court of Appeal judgment is no more convincing as a matter of law than as a matter of policy. The fact that a child is under 16 does not mean that she is, in law, necessarily unable to give her consent to medical treatment. As Woolf J. held (referring to the 1967 Report of the Committee on the Age of Majority and to a 1970 decision of the Ontario High Court); "whether or not a child is capable of giving the necessary consent will depend upon the child's maturity and understanding and the nature of the consent which is required." There is no clear authority in statute or common law to support the Court of Appeal's assertion that children under 16 have no rights in this respect.

Nor does the concept of "parental rights" justify the conclusions reached by the Court of Appeal. It is a strange concept of rights that prevents a doctor from acting in an "exceptional" case in what is seen as the medical interests of a child when the parent-child relationship is already so fractured that the child refuses to accede to the doctor's request to consult the parent.

To place parental control higher than the child's right to medical welfare (at least without a court order in favour of contraception in the individual case) has no legal justification. As Woolf J. said, parental "rights" are more accurately described as "responsibilities or duties." No doubt the drastic consequences of a blanket approval of "parental rights" persuaded the Court of Appeal to recognise that in an "emergency" (whatever that may be), a doctor is entitled to prescribe contraceptives to a child without the parent's consent.

It was said of a 19th century judge that he always sat with two others in the Court of Appeal because he did not like to be left alone in the dark. The House of Lords, to whom leave to appeal was granted, will undoubtedly throw more legal and social light on the issues raised by Mrs Gillick than the three judges of this week's Court of Appeal.

David Pannick is a barrister and a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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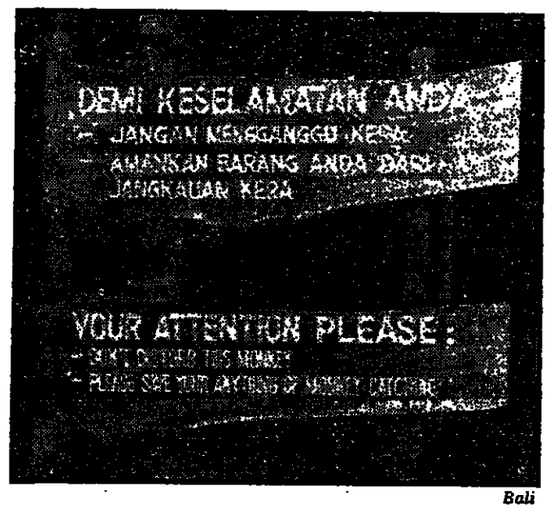
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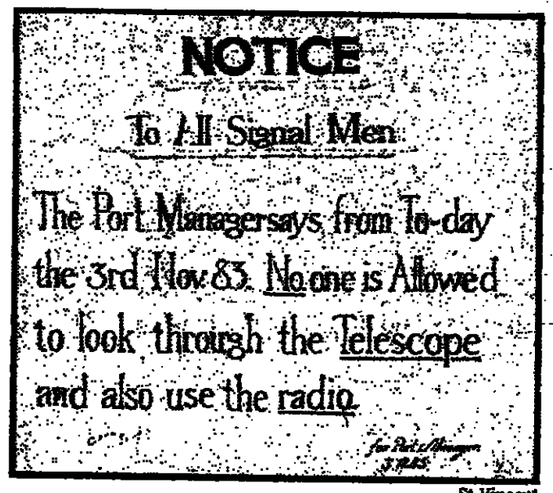
Sri Lanka



Burgundy



Bali



St Vincent

Welcome, watch your step

Alex Hamilton, in words and pictures, chooses signs of the times from around the world

ALL over the world signs are going up warning tourists not to do this, that, or the other. Not to go in, not to go out, not to wander about without a guide, not to proceed without crawler boards, not to go hatless, not to go topless, not to go naked, not to drive into the sea, not to cross marble floors that are freshly washed, not to swim, not to fish, not to spit, not to go to sleep at the wheel . . .

My collection of photographs of these has attained goodly proportions. Like any other collection it is made up of the commonplace and the rare, the obvious and the obscure. It is fairly easy to find signs barring the use of guns and knives on aircraft, but I've only come across one forbidding catapults (in the Botanical Gardens of Singapore).

Again, it's a frequent practice of Eastern shrines to direct people not to go in wearing shoes, but it's less often that you find the same sign outside a library. The one I came across was in Switzerland: it was protecting its wonderful floor, and cunningly offered soft padded footwear instead, so that visitors as they moved about kept the floor in a state of high polish, a nice example of lateral thinking.

Catholic churches sometimes exclude women not wearing hats, or full length dresses and long sleeves; Arab mosques usually forbid them whatever they're wearing; but you have to go to Indonesia for the signs that specifically forbid them only during the days of their period.

In a Turkish garden I asked for a translation of a notice fronting some sisal plants. I was told it said "Please do not write your name on the cactus." But the message wasn't getting through, I said; the plants were covered in names. Sadly, they agreed; it would be necessary to multiply the notice, in English, French, German . . .

The sign directed against wilful nuisance is a large and generally vain category. The name-scrawling habit is one of its most curious parts. True, it's not entirely modern, though Pompeii is laced rather with graffiti than names.

At the time Lord Byron carved his name on the Parthenon, there were still not many tourist signatures on ancient monuments, though the urge to make a small impression was already visible at a number of places on the Grand Tour. He would probably have been less keen to add his name where there were already thousands.

Exclusivity seems not to be a modern concern. Millions register themselves on walls of cafes, waiting rooms, benches, bridges, boats, buses, and trains — but not planes yet — not to mention every available surface of historical relics (except tombstones).

They even go over the top of American Indian inscriptions left on the ceilings of caves. There are modern daubs alongside the paintings left by Arawaks. What should the curators do? Bar visits? Cover everything over with perspex? Set up a board that invites signatures? At prehistoric Lascaux the response was to clone the cave and allow visitors to visit only the pretence. But usually the first sign of disturbance is . . . a sign.

Apart from signs that fend off sacrilege, indecency, and pollution, there are those that aim to prevent the tourist from destroying himself. Do not lean out of the window; do not photograph military installations; do not forget to double-lock your door; do not cross the tarmac when planes are taking off; do not eat the fruit of this poisonous tree. They are not always 100 percent altruistic — American tourists in particular have a reputation for litigating against environments that cause them grief.

Then there are the obscure ones. By the roadside on the way to Antalya, not far from the above-mentioned Turkish garden, was one that read "Odometre Baslangici Km 0 + 000". This time my Turkish friends were nonplussed. They stopped other cars to widen the inquiry, whose drivers also scratched their heads, before driving on into the zero plus zero zero zero. Perhaps a Turcophile reader can explain it.

I'm not sure either of the exact interpretation of the sign with half a body in Sri Lanka. I *think* it means "You may cross the road here, but at your own risk." That at least I adduced from the behaviour of the pedestrians who were dashing across where it stood.

Turkish signs are on the whole friendly. So they are in the Orient. They may be obscure, but space is usually found for "Please." Please do not feed the crows. Please do not touch the sharks (Caribbean actually). Private property, no transpassers please (Hong Kong). Attention please: — don't disturb this monkey — please save your anything of monkey catching.

I can construe this one. It comes from the sacred forest in Bali, where the sacred monkeys will tear the sacred camera off your neck, and stick their sacred paws in your pocket and nick every sacred item in them. There is no chauvinism about their behaviour. They are quite indiscriminate and steal sacred souvenirs with the same zest from the peripheral line of stalls kept by Balinese, who can be seen pursuing them with a fine disregard for their sacred qualities.

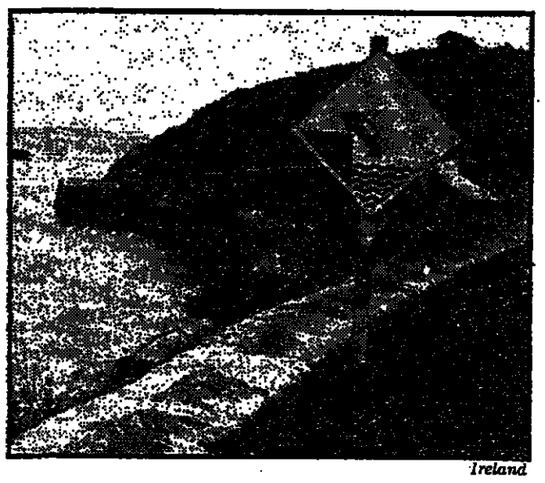
But the polite element is conspicuously absent from signs in Europe and America, where the legends are curt and the threatening graphics even vehement. Kein eintritt; Wrong way; Stationnement genant; turn back immediately, this is a one-way road . . . The graphics show your car being towed away, lightning crisping you.

But sometimes in the Western world you do get a subtler form of prohibition. Like the one that says, "Clothing optional on this beach" — implying that on the others it is not. I particularly like one on the door of a bar in Seattle, that reads "No solicitors" — what's nice about it is that it is a mere 18 inches above floor level, so any hustlers taller than two foot six could be excused for ignoring it.

It must be admitted, however, that the signs are proliferating because of the slack and the slovenly and the coarse actions of tourists. I won't moralise: Christmas and the New Year are on us. But let's hope there'll be more scope, in polyglot variety, for a sign that's quite common in stern and wild Caledonia: Haste Ye Back.



Washington State



Ireland



Monte Carlo



Bonaire

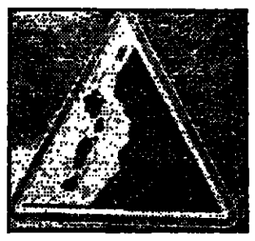


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هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل



Jeremy Brock makes his first visit to an Iron Curtain country and finds Prague not worse, not better, but decidedly different to what he expected

Pickled pepper pickings



Above: the bridges of Prague; and right: the equestrian statue of St Wenceslas, patron saint of Bohemia, in Prague

RECENTLY I went for my first holiday behind the Iron Curtain. Never having seen an East block country without its outdoor clothes on I looked forward to seeing it in the flesh, with the relish of the hopelessly curious and entirely ignorant.

The flight and hotel arrangements were dealt with by Progressive Tours — one week in a twin room with half-board, private facilities and a return flight cost £225 (rising to £262 at the height of the season) which left me with time to empty my local library of all literature connected with Czechoslovakia. Three books in all: Nagel's Encyclopedia-Guide to Czechoslovakia (rather indigestible), The Agony of Czechoslovakia '38/'68 by Kurt Weisskopf and Vera Olivova's The Doomed Democracy (hardly light reading).

My travelling companion, a barrister and scrupulous in all matters diplomatic, was horrified by my second choice and demanded that I bury it under my sandwiches in case the Czech police should impound it and trail us for the duration of our stay. So, by the time we were belted in with OK Airlines (the disarmingly jolly abbreviation for Czechoslovakia's National Airline), I was ready for the full works — tapped telephones, bugged bedrooms, seductive strangers with radios in their earrings and shadowy men in dark cars. Reality is less colourful but no less ludicrous.

The lady at Customs waves us through without so much as a cursory glance at our bags. Imagine my disappointment. Outside the airport we discover a bus travelling towards the City centre and leap aboard pursued by crowds of people carrying skis — the Czechs are nuts about the snowy slopes.

My companion busies himself learning the native tongue. Avoid this exercise. Czech is a language full of impossible noises and will only leave you feeling even more foreign than before. I recommend a broad smile and the frequent repetition of phrases like "how very good of you . . . most grateful" or "I say! Is it really? What a silly chump I am!" This amuses the punters and leaves you free to indicate your real needs through adroit dumbshow.

After the bus comes the Metro. Public transport in Prague is very efficient and begins rolling at about the time when you should be entering the deep phase of sleep. The Metro in Prague has a Talking Train which tells you where you're going, where you've reached and, for all I know, why you're there.

Being a State Hotel ours was predominantly brown and beige, full of bulky sofas, weary rubber plants and endless pictures of ski slopes. The staff in our hotel wore expressions of bored sophistication. Clearly they are an elite among the elite for they speak Englovakian — a potatoey language full of pauses and strange omissions.

Armed with our food vouchers we go to the hotel restaurant; an ill-lit dive in the bowels of the earth. Our meal consists of lukewarm dumplings, pork, gravy and pickled peppers. The peppers turn out to be fronting for the vegetables, there being a chronic shortage, and are to become our constant companions during the week. The restaurant is empty except for one tired looking lady drinking Dubonnet in the corner. The waiters (four in all) take it in turns to serve.

If you go on a package tour you will be issued with food vouchers which is the State's way of ensuring that you spend a certain amount of money in their hotels (the only places they're worth a bean) and as little as possible on the blackmarket. The problem is that the hotel food is not nearly as good as that offered by restaurants and cafes. I recommend saving up the vouchers and blowing them on an enormous meal at the end of your stay.

From the moment we step on to the street we are asked if we want to change money. Wherever you go, at whatever time, the question is always the same; only the approach varies. To begin with there is the Tap on the Shoulder:

(Scene — two tourists lean over a map of the city and discuss tactics. Enter Stranger)

Stranger: You want change Cambio a bit hello?

Tourist: I say . . . is it really? What a silly chump I am!

(The Tourist makes various gestures to the effect that he is not interested. Exit Stranger a little bemused)

Or there's The Doorway Voice (a variation of the above with the difference that The Stranger never shows himself) and the Brazen Approach:

(Scene — two tourists stand drinking in the atmosphere. A Stranger walks boldly up to them)

Stranger: English?
Tourist: What?
Stranger: Chelsea Football.
Tourist: Sorry?
Stranger: Good rate for Change sometimes I was.
Tourist: (Politely turning away) No thanks.
Stranger: (Moving closer) London Town.
Tourist: (Polite but insistent) I'm a Voucher Man.

Finally there's the Voice on the Move. This last approach is so quickly over that it can hardly be meant seriously; it's a reflex action. Clearly the sight of a camera is enough to trigger off the question. They are truly desperate for hard currency.

Our first full day in Prague is a Sunday. The hotel breakfast room doubles as a bar for the public and breakfast is accompanied by the very latest hit records from America. Breakfast itself consists of coffee, hard rolls, rye-bread, butter and jam. The hard rolls look like suntanned bananas but they shed, when broken or cut, a lethal shrapnel-crust across the table.

The first thing you notice about Prague is the sheer weight of Baroque and Gothic architecture. As one of the few European capitals not to have been bombed during the Second World War the place is packed with surprising doorways, small palaces and cobbled streets. Marvellous. Second is the lack of traffic on the move. Plenty of parked cars but very few in motion. No 24-hour petrol stations, in fact no petrol stations at all. I find myself wondering where they buy the stuff. Do they haggle for it in dimly lit basements?

I stroll towards the Old Town, past wooden scaffolding and grey window displays. Turning a corner I am suddenly face to face with a bustling market: small wooden huts surrounded by young men and women. In fact the huts are closed and the crowd form tight groups around the sellers (most of them no more than boys) who lean nonchalantly against the hut walls displaying their wares.

Nobody takes the slightest notice of me, as I push my way into one of the larger groups, for they're far too interested in the leather-cum-plastic training shoes being produced (with a pause for effect) from a brown carrier bag. One of the punters steps forward to try them on. The crowd watch intently. Will he buy? No, he's not satisfied. Another punter steps up. Same thing everywhere: small groups haggling over the price of a digital watch, a fourth-hand pop record and a pair of jeans.

Not exactly Big Time but there is nevertheless an atmosphere of genuine excitement — almost of anticipation — as if the crowd relish the shadiness of it all. Somebody cries "Police!" and they scatter. It turns out to be a false alarm but reveals the true value of this little market — danger. They want the police to come: they want excitement.

The crowd are not all Slav. Keeping to the edge of the market and moving all the time are young Chinese boys selling cheap watches and transistor radios. They look nervous and they've reason to be. As I'm about to leave, a fight breaks out, and two Chinese boys are dragged to the ground squealing like pigs. About 20 young Slavs form a circle around their victims while the chosen few are allowed to beat them up. Later that morning another Chinese boy is dragged from a busy bus-stop and into an alleyway (I saw five such attacks that Sunday). The aggression is open and unashamed.

As for the rest of my week, I thoroughly enjoyed myself. The people were friendly, the sights were many and varied and the beer was better than any I have ever tasted. It has the distinct advantage of being potent without tasting like sweetexed lager-whip.

By the end of the week we lost our zest for independence and took a grab-it-while-you-can tour of Prague with Cedok — the official Tourist Board. Our guide, a kindly lady in a pink bobble hat, spoke very fast Englovakian and kept referring to "the Cessation style" while the driver of our bus (obviously missing his family) drove like a maniac — all good clean fun.

The Opera, on the other hand, was not. My companion decided that I needed a little culture and insisted on a trip to Bizet's Carmen as performed by the Czechoslovakian National Opera. Czechoslovakians do not make good Spaniards. It's like asking Margaret Thatcher to play Ophelia.

I paid a visit to our hotel disco. The place was packed with smartly dressed Czechs drinking tonic water (the booze being far too expensive) and dancing to tunes entitled High Society and Stand Up For Your Rights. In order to enjoy these you had to wait outside a steel door until the gentleman inside ushered you in. So much for Mr Weisskopf and the agony of 1968 — but I've got no right to judge. Besides, they seemed to be enjoying themselves. I went to bed.

Your garden does little more than pause for breath during December. Christopher Lloyd on how to stop the work piling up

A nasty patch



drawing by Sharon Finmark.

DOES anyone want to think about gardening over Christmas? Only for the future and through books and catalogues, I suspect; certainly not from the point of view of going into the garden and doing things, unless to work off a stretto of over-indulgences. In which case you look out the saw and then a victim to use it on. Off you go, pushing and pulling with crazily inefficient enthusiasm. In no time you're in a lather while the saw binds in green wood. You realise that the way you've worked things, the branch is inevitably closing in on instead of opening up the saw slot; you've approached your task from a disastrously uncomfortable angle and the saw hasn't been sharpened since you bought it. A muddy walk through ploughed fields would have been preferable.

December is winter and yet it's the phony winter, playing a cat and mouse game. We've been listening to the usual dire prognostications for the past six months. Now that we're actually in it, the prophets of doom are silent at last, keeping their fingers crossed that it turns out as bad as they foretold, so that they can crow "we told you so", at the end of the ordeal. Meantime, at the receiving end, we live from day to day in a state of suspended animation.

These days are absurdly short. Sometimes I use them to start rose pruning. After all, it doesn't matter when you leave off at that job, and the ground can be as hard or as soft as it likes. Before pruning, my rose garden is quite the most hideous spot around, though luckily it's in a backwater and not difficult to avoid. I remember an occasion, following one of many sporadic incursions by the farmer's sheep, when, days later, a ram was found hopelessly entangled in the Bourbon rose Mme. Isaac Pereire's embraces. He'd dug his sharp hooves six inches deep into the soft pug.

But when the roses are pruned and order has been restored, it's even a pleasure to make a detour through the rose garden. Not that the bushes can look other than what they are, bundles of thorn-encrusted sticks, but at least it is clear that someone (myself) lives here and has been at work. Ironically, I spend longer in the rose garden in winter than in the other three seasons put together.

Slowly, though scarcely inexorably because I often wonder whether it really will be completed before the next growing season, hedge trimming is making snail's pace progress. The yew hedges do look rather splendid when all their stubble has been removed. I know they still bulge in unconventional places but that even adds an endearingly unpremeditated touch to their battlemented structures. By and large their sharpened outlines are impressive.

We managed to mow the lawns at the end of last month and that was a satisfactory achievement because there was a lot of growth during mild autumn weather. I don't think it ever pays to put your mowing machine away with a dismissive gesture for the winter. There may be an opportunity to be seized in any month, when the wind has blown the grass blades reasonably dry and an overcast sky wards off more dew or frost.

If you abstain from mowing for three or four months, it's a terrible chawing when the day of reckoning arrives. And that's not to mention the crescendo of unsightliness that has been building up in the lawn over that period. Especially if you have bitches who want to be out and back again as fast as ever they can in stormy weather, and always choose the same spot, nearest the door of re-entry. In some patches the grass dies out while in others, surrounding these, it grows furiously fast, but a timely mowing disguises all this.

Meantime the bulbs are showing through and I'm wondering how many of our numerous areas of rough grass we shall have time to give one last, tight cut before we shall be damaging their "noses". It can indeed go on into December in a lucky year, but there are some patches where the ground is already too soggy to have a machine running over it.

The later you cut, the longer it lasts, of course, and to see small bulbs flowering in well shorn turf does look good. They show up so well. But where there are snowflakes (Leucojum aestivum), in particular, the last cut had already to be completed by early last month as the new leaves on these bulbs are specially precocious.

That's the strange part about this time of year. So much new growth is increasingly evident that in a way winter doesn't exist and autumn merges straight into spring. Look at Viburnum farreri (V. fragrans), for instance, and its hybrid V. bodnantense. They come into bloom in November when their old leaves are still on. Late November gales remove the last of these, so that the blossom showed up a whole lot better. Then, in January, the pale new leaves are already expanding. It has no winter. Here is a deciduous shrub that does not rest.

There are, admittedly, periods during hard, frosty weather when evergreen leaves hang sullen, curled up, and depressed, but the moment the frost relents, back they bounce, plump and promising. Flower buds are already prominent on the stinking hellebores, Helleborus foetidus, their stems so pale and fleshy that it seems impossible they should survive cold weather. And yet they invariably do.

So, too, with Euphorbia wulfenii. Even in quite early autumn you can tell which shoots are going to flower next spring, because they bend into a crook at the apex. Frosts turn this shrub into one of the most scarecrow-like objects around, but in every mild intervening spell, tiny steps forward can be perceived. The crozier straightens itself (one wonders what its point was) and the great bushy inflorescence continues to develop.

For all its discomforts, gardeners must surely find far less in winter to depress them than do most people. There are so many signs that this is only a pause and that a great surge of renewed activity is already stirring.

Odd jobbing

LEEKS and parsnips are both perfectly hardy and can be left in the ground until required. But it is a good idea to lift a small stock of each in anticipation of prolonged hard frosts. This stock should be kept in a cool but frost-free place. Carrots and winter radish are somewhat less hardy and in all but the mildest areas they should be protected by a layer of straw.

A fork is an indispensable aid when lifting root vegetables. This also applies to leeks, even though they offer an attractive hand hold. For unless the soil is loosened, the base of the stem will probably be torn off.

Yellowing lower leaves of sprout plants should be removed to improve air circulation. Sprouts are harvested from the bottom of the stem up, as they become ready. The tops of the plants can eventually be used as winter greens, and then the plants should be removed before soil nutrients are poached to make fresh growth.

Swedes can also provide winter greens if they are lifted now. The roots should be trimmed and then the vegetables can be planted closely into a box of peat or soil and placed in a cool, fairly dark place. The resultant shoots are partly blanched and can be cooked like turnip tops.

HILARY APPLEGATE.

Simon Calder gives Poland the thumbs up and offers a hitch-hiker's guide

Where hitches are a blessing

"AUTOSTOP facilitates seeing relics of the past, beauty of nature and modern achievements. Moreover, Autostop is an excellent school of life: it develops self-dependence, accustoms young people to hardships and surprises of the journey, develops the ability to cope with various conditions." — The Polish Social Autostop Committee.

INSPIRING words indeed, but hitch-hikers hoping to take off for Poland at a moment's notice should think again. At least a fortnight before you must apply for a visa, a performance which will confirm all your suspicions about Eastern European bureaucracy. The easy part is filling a form in triplicate, attaching two identical photographs and paying £10 for the privilege. Your problems really begin when you try to satisfy the minimum exchange requirements or to pre-pay your accommodation, one of which is essential.

Compared with the struggle of getting into Poland, the task of joining the Autostop scheme is a dream. You simply wander into any of 260 branches of the PTTK — Polish Country Lovers' Society — pay 150 zlotys (about £1 or the official rate of exchange), fill in one form and emerge with a complete hitchhiker's kit.

Firstly, you get a large map showing all the roads you would ever wish to hitch in Poland.

Next, there will be an Autostop rule book which won't mean a great deal to the average British monolinguist since it is printed entirely in Polish. Your 150 zlotys also insure you against accident anywhere in Poland during the hitching season.

Finally, the apparent key to success: a book of coupons totalling 2000km, enough to circumnavigate the Socialist Republic. They bear values of 25, 50 and 80km, and drivers who collect the most from hitchers win prizes.

So, fully equipped, you are ready to take to the road. Given the logistic problems of boarding a bus or tram to the outskirts (usually involving buying a ticket in advance from certain tobacconists) the simplest way is to start walking out of the city with one arm flapping away. (A gracefully outstretched thumb does not mean a great deal to the average Polish motorist.) Within minutes a driver will stop to point out your folly in hitching so close to the centre, and will offer you a lift out to the recognised hitching spots.

Every town seems to have one on each main road and they are not difficult to spot. As you approach, a crowd of Poles will drift out on to the road to coerce drivers into stopping. Soldiers, secretaries and school kids take part in this loose scrum. Every vehicle that even thinks about stopping is immediately engulfed in a swarm of humanity shouting destinations and proffering 10 zloty notes.

Now this is not entirely in keeping with British hitch-hiking ethics which dictate that new arrivals take their place at the end of the queue. Your inability to speak Polish with the fluency and force of the competition should persuade you to move a respectful distance along from the throng and to adopt a calm air of dignity. Then, the innate ability of Poles to spot a foreigner at a hundred metres coupled with their strong sense of obligation towards visitors should secure you a lift almost immediately. Indeed, my total waiting time was no more than an hour.

But my precious coupons were not too much in demand.

The few drivers to speak English explained that it was their duty and privilege to give rides to foreign visitors. And, reading the small print in the Autostop manual, it transpired that the prizes awarded were worth a mere £6 and hence only 5,000 drivers bother to send in the coupons they have collected.

So, on a journey which took me a thousand miles around Poland, I offloaded less than half of my coupons; and then only by giving out far more than necessary to the drivers who would accept them.



A country church at Zakopane

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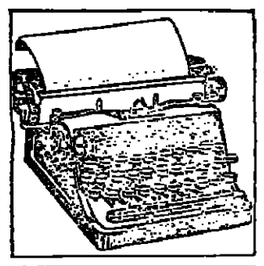
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Will Bhopal cause an ethical reaction to uncurbed export of pesticides?



SATURDAY NOTEBOOK

THE smell of death in Bhopal has improved the atmosphere in the House of Lords where, by timely accident, Britain's pesticide legislation is now being debated.

There is no obvious link between mass suffering in India, the precinct of Westminster, and legislation which was drafted primarily to codify existing guidelines on pesticide use in Britian.

The Government's aim when it introduced the legislation into the Food and Environment Protection Bill was to mollify the common British voter without threatening the vested interests of its favoured constituents, the farming lobby and UK pesticide manufacturers. The interests of working people in the Third World were remote in its mind.

But the disaster at Bhopal, where 2,500 people were gassed to death at the Union Carbide plant, may now force the Government to rethink its complacency toward the unrestricted export of dangerous pesticides to developing countries.

The survivors at Bhopal at least have the grim satisfaction of knowing that their loved ones died together in a holocaust which still grips the world's concern.

At least 10,000 people die without epitaph every year in the Third World from accidental pesticide poisoning. Oxfam has been saying for years that this terrible toll could be reduced dramatically if Third World governments were simply required to give their "prior informed consent" before receiving shipments of pesticides which are so dangerous that they are banned or severely restricted for use in Western countries.

What could be more humane and commercially reasonable? The lack of literacy, proper water supplies and adequate medical infrastructure make these pesticides lethal cocktails in unsuspecting hands. It would be both patronising and wrong to ban hazardous exports completely.

In the West we can afford the luxury of banning DDT because its toxins lodge in our food chain. Such ecological niceties have no clout with a Third World government faced with a malaria outbreak which does not have the means to buy DDT's more expensive, but safer, successors.

But Oxfam's reasoned demand for "prior informed consent" continues to meet fierce resistance from pesticide manufacturers and governments like Britain's which value their balance of payments more than the lives of distant peasant farmers. Oxfam's only victories have come in assemblies which care more about morality than money.

The European Parliament overwhelmingly voted for "prior informed consent" in a resolution last year but this mandate has been smothered ever since by the Council of Ministers, who hold real power. Pesticide manufacture is big business in Germany, Britain and France.

More recently the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation has circulated a draft code requiring adherence to "prior informed consent" by all signatory countries, and this includes Britain.

It is understood that the Foreign Office is now working feverishly to dilute the code to require only better "information exchange," an intentionally woolly condition.

This would allow Lord Belstead, the junior minister steering the pesticide legislation through the Lords, to say hand-on-heart that the new bill will require all UK pesticide exporters to honour Britain's "international obligations," another vague, almost meaningless phrase.

To give the UK legislation real teeth an all party group of peers led by Labour's Lord Melchett is attempting to insert a precise export restriction clause into the body of the bill. Prior to the Bhopal tragedy their chances of success were nil. Now there is growing disquiet on the Tory back benches and enough perhaps, given the House of Lords' recent mood of rebelliousness, to push the amendment through when the vote is taken next month.

What happens at Westminster matters because Britain is the third largest pesticide exporter in the world. Last year export sales rose 31 per cent to £362 million and, because of Commonwealth ties, Britain is probably the single biggest exporter to the developing world.

UK pesticide manufacturers claim that "prior informed consent" would bring a bureaucratic tangle and lead to even more pesticide abuse in the Third World. If their exports were held up, the gap would be filled, they claim, by even more hazardous pesticides from Eastern European manufacturers happy to ignore the restriction to win hard currency.

There is a certain truth to this argument which even Oxfam privately recognises, but the charity wants to use UK legislation as a spearhead to reform all exporters.

"Prior informed consent" also presumes that Third World governments are never culpable in the pesticide tragedies that befall their populations.

Last year the Indonesian government asked ICI to supply a shipment of rat poison. What for? asked the UK company. To protect the crops of peasants in new frontier settlements, answered the government.

ICI recommended a safer, but more expensive form of the poison, Klerat, which could not be accidentally ingested. But the Indonesian government insisted on the cheaper form directly impregnated into rice to be used as bait. ICI complied and printed warnings in the local language on the bags.

The peasants' crop subsequently failed and they were starving and had only the rice bait to eat. They read the warning, but washed the poisoned rice thoroughly. After boiling, it was eaten by a volunteer. When he seemed fine the next day, all 18 people in the community enjoyed their meal. Three days later, when the haemorraging action of the Klerat took effect, they were all dead.

As we have seen at Bhopal, Western companies may be tempted to measure their care and concern by the expected financial consequences of any misfortune.

Consider in contrast how ICI behaved when the Florida state government in the United States asked for a consignment of paraquat for "weed spraying." Which weed? asked ICI. Oh, just marijuana, replied the state authority. No sale!, said ICI, marijuana is a crop, not a weed and that is illegal.

Could it also be that ICI was tempted to consider the consequences if any of that paraquat contaminated marijuana had found itself down the lungs of middle class American kids whose daddies just happened to be lawyers? Lawsuits and publicity of that kind can be very expensive.

James Erlichman

Reckitt & Colman happier with new, fresh coup

Mustard firm buys Airwick for £165m

By Margareta Pagano, City Correspondent

Reckitt & Colman, the mustard to shoe polish group, is paying £165 million to buy Airwick, the consumer products arm of the giant Swiss pharmaceuticals and chemical group, Ciba-Geiby.

The deal comes just a few weeks after Reckitt was defeated in a three-cornered contest to takeover the Australian households group, Nicholas Kiwi. Both Airwick and Nicholas were earmarked as potential acquisitions when Reckitt called for over £100 million from shareholders earlier this year but the Nicholas bid was at a more advanced stage of negotiation.

But Reckitt claimed yesterday that the Airwick coup is, in fact, the better deal of the two. "As it has worked out I believe that Reckitt has got the right acquisition after all — mainly because of Airwick's large presence in the US market, where we want to expand," said David Clifford, Reckitt's company secretary.

Airwick, which last year had sales of £203 million, will double Reckitt's household goods division. Some 40 per cent of Airwick's market is in the US where brand leaders include the Airwick air fresheners, Carpet Fresh, Gamorene carpet shampoo and Binaca oral hygiene products. It has strong markets in France and Germany with about 15 per cent of sales respectively and some 9 per cent in Italy — all markets where Reckitt is keen to expand its presence. In the UK, Airwick sells Gumption cleaner and Dobie's seeds.

But the market took an exceedingly damp view of the purchase price which it regarded as a high premium to pay for a group which last year earned some £9 million profit before tax. Net assets are estimated this year at £69 million. Shares in Reckitt slumped 20p to 553p but had picked up by the close by 2p.

Reckitt shook off any criticism by pointing out that the premium reflects the great potential benefits it believes the synergy of the two groups can bring once integrated under Reckitt's stable.

Opec wants stricter production monitoring

From John Hooper in Geneva

The most controversial proposal which Opec oil ministers are taking back to their governments this weekend is the setting up of a corps of inspector-auditors whose job it would be to check that the country in which they were stationed was complying with the cartel's production limits.

The Algerian Minister of Energy and Petro-Chemicals, Mr Belkacem Nabi, told reporters as he left Geneva that "the principal proposition that goes to the governments is that member countries must accept the physical presence of persons on their land who will control the export of crude oil as refined products."

The prospect of foreign monitors empowered to investigate some of the most sensitive data in the host government's possession is one that has grave implications for national sovereignty. For Iran and Iraq who have remained within Opec despite being at war, it would also have immediate security implications.

On the other hand, Opec's already diminished credibility will uffer untold damage if its members cannot agree on a way to ensure they adhere to the undertakings they made in October to keep production down to 16 million barrels per day as a way of propping up the price.

And if the market were to lose faith in OPEC the result would be a crash in the oil price that would ruin several of its members countries' economies.

Later on Thursday, the oil ministers agreed to adjourn their meeting until the 27th to allow time for consultations. Their decision to concentrate on achieving strict adherence to the quotas set two months ago followed apparent failure to agree on how to close the price gap between OPEC's over-valued light crudes and its under-valued heavy crudes.

Linkage between the two was made clear by the Kuwaiti oil minister, Sheikh Ali Khalifa al-Sabah, who said: "Pricing would be a miner issue if we resolve this." He added that under the proposals being discussed, a watch would be kept not only on volume (to prevent over-production) but also on prices (to prevent discounting).

But it is by no means clear what will be the penalties, if any, for non-compliance. The sheikh said cryptically that "the biggest penalty is that countries which sacrifice would not be prepared to sacrifice if the others are not sticking to their quotas and prices."

The Algerians, Kuwaitis, Saudi Arabians and — perhaps surprisingly, in view of the fact that they have been among the most prominent quota busters — the Venezuelans, are all pressing for the strictest possible control.

Opec move aids pound

By our City Staff

The adjournment of the Opec talks until next Thursday helped the pound which recovered 0.72 cents to $1.1735, and rose 0.2 to 73.2 per cent of its 1975 value on the Bank of England's trade weighted index. The pound had been falling all week because of fears of an oil price collapse. The trade figures also helped the modest recovery in sterling on a quiet day in the markets because of the imminence of Christmas. Dealers said that the dollar may have been helped recently by the yearend and need of US companies to remit profits.

They may have been holding off, wrongly, in the hope that the dollar would weaken, enhancing the value of their foreign currency holdings. Now they are forced to buy dollars.

BA signals New Year air fare war

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

Winter air fares to and from America are likely to drop by at least £40 following official approval to exempt British Airways from US government anti-trust law suits.

British Airways last night signalled the outbreak of a New Year cut-price fares battle on the busy North Atlantic by seeking approval to cut fares from the beginning of January until March 31.

If approved by the UK authorities, the cheapest return between London and New York would fall £40 to £259 and by £122 to £298 to Los Angeles. BA's new fares are certain to be matched by US rivals, Pan American and TWA.

Earlier moves by the three major transatlantic airlines to cut winter fares were blocked by the UK Transport Department because of fears that Virgin Atlantic, the cut-price British airline, would launch a massive anti-trust law suit.

Virgin Atlantic has attacked the proposed £259 return fare to New York — only £1 more than its cut-price offering — as "predatory" and the liquidators of the failed Laker Airways are already embroiled in a £1 billion suit claiming that major international airlines, including BA, conspired to drive Laker out of business through predatory pricing.

The Laker law suit is one of the major reasons why the privatisation of British Airways has been postponed beyond the original target date of February.

However, the US Justice Department exemption for BA does not appear to exclude the airline from private anti-trust cases similar to the Laker liquidator's suit.

UK aviation minister, Mr Michael Spicer, said Britain accepted the US assurances without prejudice to the general view that air services between the two countries were outside US Law.

Swiss cheesed off with security

From John Hooper

Arguably the most important negotiations at the Intercontinental Hotel in Geneva yesterday took place not in the basement where Opec's oil ministers were reviewing proposals for the control of their output but at the top of the building where an outraged Swiss policeman told Opec officials a few hours later that he could not guarantee their security if they returned to the city — as planned — next Thursday.

It appears that the Swiss authorities first heard of the oil ministers' decision to adjourn their conference until after Christmas on radio and television on Thursday night. Like most members of the press — and indeed the cartel's own officials — they had assumed that the conference would wind up before Christmas at the latest and they had given many of the officers protecting the building leave starting on Christmas night.

Startled and worried by the Swiss reaction, Opec's bosses toyed with the idea of transferring the conference to Vienna until someone pointed out that the police there had doubtless made similar arrangements for their officers' well-being.

An agreement was reached whereby Opec undertook to bring in more of its own security men and to take a share of responsibility for security outside as well as inside the 18-storey hotel.

Under the agreement, the organisation has said that it will not blame the Swiss Government if anything should go wrong.

£10m support for Forgemasters as boss steps down

By Andrew Cornelius

Sheffield Forgemasters, the troubled joint venture forgings company owned by the British Steel Corporation and Johnson and Firth Brown, is being propped up with a £10 million cash injection.

Half the funds are being provided by BSC, with the rest coming from the company's banks which helped organise the controversial deal whereby Forgemasters was created two years ago.

Under the terms of the deal announced yesterday Donald Hardwick will step down as chairman of Forgemasters on December 31. He will be replaced by Thomas Kenny, chairman of Ruberoid, the roofing and building materials group.

BSC said yesterday that the company needed further funding because of the losses and rationalisation costs incurred during the recession have been greater than expected when the company was formed in December, 1982. More than 4,000 jobs will be saved. The Department of Trade and Industry has welcomed the deal.

Forgemasters has lost more than £25 million since it was created in a controversial deal whereby the Bank of England persuaded several leading institutions to put up £10 million to get the new joint venture started. The Bank had argued that the creation of Forgemasters would help protect strategically important British skills needed for the defence and aerospace industries.

The institutions have been reluctant to inject any more cash into Forgemasters and at one stage Johnson and Firth Brown, the BSC's partner in the venture, also stressed that it was not in a position to provide further backing to the company which brought together JFB's steel forging and casting interests in Sheffield with BSC's River Don forging works.

Founder Shuck sacked by Espley

By Geoffrey Gibbs

Ron Shuck founder and former chairman of Espley Trust has been sacked as managing director of the property and construction group he built up.

His dismissal comes two and a half months after he was suspended from executive responsibilities within the group and follows an investigation into the £3 million purchase of four Scottish properties by Espley earlier this year.

Mr Shuck, who suffered a major setback recently when two of his companies were placed in receivership, now faces legal action from Espley.

Espley chairman Ronnie Aitken yesterday disclosed that having taken the advice of leading counsel the board has instructed Espley's solicitors to institute proceedings against Mr Shuck and others.

Mr Shuck was suspended from executive duties in October while investigations into the Scottish property deal were carried out and promptly indicated his intention of making a 35p a share takeover bid. The offer failed to materialise following failure to agree terms and the shares have since slumped to just 13p. At one stage this year they topped 100p.

Mr Aitken meanwhile reports that the programme of UK property disposals undertaken since he took over as chairman in September has been largely completed. Borrowings have been reduced susbstantially

Costain expands in US

By Andrew Cornelius

Costain, the contracting and mining group, is expanding its existing United States coal business with the £36 million takeover of Industrial Fuels Corporation from MidCon Corporation in Chicago.

The deal will be funded with $25 million of borrowings in the US and $15 million cash already in the US operations.

IFC has more than 60 million tonne of coal reserves in the US and made net profits of $8 million on sales of $150 million last year.

Costain has existing US mining interests in Kentucky and Alabama and an annual contract in Louisiana to supply a power station with 2.5 million tonnes of lignite each year for the next 25 years.

UK trade balance improves

By Christopher Huhne, Economics Editor

BRITAIN'S trade balance with the rest of the world improved sharply in November as a £570 million fall in imports helped reduce the monthly deficit to £122 million, Department of Trade and Industry figures showed yesterday.

The trade deficit was more than £800 million in September and October, though the improvement in November was widely expected since imports had previously been boosted by attempts to beat the 1 November deadline for the imposition of accelerated VAT payments. A recovery in exports also helped.

The current account in November is officially put at a surplus of £278 million once the official estimate for a surplus of £400 million on invisible trade such as tourism and shipping is added to the visible trade balance.

This leaves a cumulative current account deficit for the eleven months of 1984 of £179 million compared with a surplus of £2,994 million for the whole of 1983 and £4,881 million in 1982.

Visible exports rose by £196 million in November to reach £6,450 million while imports fell to a total of £6,572 million. The balance of trade in oil improved by £36 million to reach £424 million, still only half of the monthly surpluses recorded at the beginning of the year and the end of last year before the effects of increased oil burn at power stations due to the miners' strike were felt.

The total volume of exports is estimated to have picked up sharply in the last two months after remaining flat from the last quarter of last year.

Within the total, still affected by the miners' strike, manufacturing export volume recovered strongly in October and November to show a rise for the last three months over the same period a year before of 14.6 per cent.

Tomatin whisky shares suspended

By Geoffrey Gibbs

Concern mounted yesterday over the future of Tomatin Distillers as directors of the loss-making malt whisky distilling concern called a halt to Stock Exchange dealings in the company's shares.

The quotation was frozen with the shares standing at 18p, at which level the whole business is valued at less than £1.3 million. Five years ago, when the Heinecken lager group acquired a substantial stake in the company, the shares were changing hands for around 200p.

The Tomatin directors, who recently announced that they were considering ways in which the company's financial situation could be strengthened, were tied up in a meeting yesterday and were not immediately available to comment on the reasons for the share suspension.

Tomatin owns the largest single distillery in Scotland, supplying its highland malt to whisky blenders elsewhere in the industry. During the last few years it has faced an uphill struggle in the face of the endemic problem of overcapacity within the industry and has not made a profit since 1979.

"The company is not getting enough business through the distillery to make it pay," commented one respected scotch whisky industry expert yesterday.

Tomatin sank deeper into the red during the six months to the end of June when pre-tax losses increased from £622,000 to £1,062,000. The directors have warned that there are still no signs of a significant recovery in demand for new whisky and the City fears that losses for the year as a whole may increase to as much as £2 million.

British and Commonwealth Shipping which owns almost 30 per cent of the company preference shares following a refinancing package eighteen months ago said yesterday that it was aware of the share suspension but was not prepared to comment further.

Bank chief hits back

The Governor of the Bank of England, in a letter to SDP Leader David Owen, has hit back at allegations made in Parliament on the Johnson Matthey Bankers rescue.

"The advice which you have received is ill-informed and the conclusions you draw ill-founded" was the response from Robin Leigh-Pemberton to Dr Owen's criticism of the company.

Mr Leigh Pemberton denied that the problems at JMB arose in relation to its bullion dealings, one of Dr Owen's central accusations.

Problems come on JMB's commercial loan book, he said. Bullion dealings were and remained profitable.

Dr Owen's assertions would diminish the confidence of JMB's customers and counterparties and their willingness to do business with the company, the Governor said.

This would lessen the value of JMB when it came to be sold back into the private sector and could only increase the risk of loss from the rescue operation, he said, adding that other bullion dealers could also be affected by assertions of the unprofitability of bullion operations generally.

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52 Buy Johnson Matthey shares on advice of friend at Charter Consolidated

51

50

49 Buy take-away food stall before Budget — hit by VAT

48 SELL

47 Fill in BT application form wrongly

40 ECONOMIC FORECAST

41

42 Buy Dunlop shares for recovery

43

44 Buy Guardian Money Guide and save enough to buy this paper through 1985

45

46

39

38 Buy Waddington shares before M Robert Maxwell

37

36 Daughter wins place at university — expenses make you bankrupt

35 DEUTSCHE MARK

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33

26

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28 Burgled: insurance company says you were underinsured

29

30

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32 Apply for BT shares

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20 £

19 Sell Granny Bonds in October: lose 2.4 per cent supplement

12

13 Get divorced and claim full year's tax allowance (women only)

14 Buy Charter Consolidated shares on advice of friend at Johnson Matthey

15

16

17 Win newspaper bingo on day paper printed wrong numbers

18 Discover grandad had Reuters shares

11 RIGHT!

10 TAX SANTA!

9

8

7 Bought holiday dollars at 1.49 in February

6

5

1 Read Guardian: took out life assurance ahead of Budget

2 THE TIMES Dingo 9 19 25 32 10 20 30 39

3

4

RULES: For 2-6 players who throw the dice in turn and advance the number of squares indicated. A player who lands on a square from which a ladder rises is carried up to the square at the top of the ladder. A player who lands on a square occupied by a snake's head is carried down to the square at the end of the snake's tail. The winner is the first player to land exactly on the last square — no overshoots!

START

DESIGNER: PETER CLARKE

COMPANY BRIEFING

Kelsey gets on in the world

Solder to roofing group, Kelsey Industries, made good progress in its worldwide operations in the second half of the year to September 30, though profit is still well short of pre-recession levels. The company was the pioneer in the repurchase of its own shares, so earnings on the smaller capital have increased markedly.

Turnover soared to £30.8 million, from £25.2 million, boosted by the extensions in Malaysia and Canada which came into operation in the latter months of the period. Roofing also pushed ahead strongly, but other building products, including insulation material, were depressed. The contribution from North America was well up, helped by the strong dollar.

Pre-tax profit rallied further to £1.44 million, from £1.14 million, in line with expectations and in spite of the setback arising from start-up costs, as reported at the half-way stage. Losses on building products distribution and a disappointing performance in audio and video accessories in Europe were contained by the gains in own manufacturing.

The dividend remains at 8p net a share, including the 5.5p final, though earnings advanced to 17p, from 12.9p. This resulted partly from the £1.67 million laid out on buying back shares last year.



Devaluation of the South African Rand has put the brakes on the ERF truck group which has skidded from a £137,000 pre-tax profit to a £1 million loss in the six months to September 27.

The last surviving independent UK heavy truck maker increased its turnover from £27.1 million to £33.5 million in the half year but exchange losses took £1.1 million against a profit of £123,000. There is again no interim dividend.

Reacting to the devaluation, the board says that it was taking its banker's advice and has entered into forward exchange contracts for all its rand commitments and has made full provision in the accounts, for all costs arising.

Also, it has arranged for all future sales to South Africa to be covered by forward exchange contracts to eliminate the possibility of such exchange losses arising again.

The group's plastics division has made further progress.

Improved sales for commercial vehicles, including substantial export orders in recent weeks should bring an improvement in trading prospects in the second half.

Forward for Firth

Profits of GM Firth, the diversified holding company headed by Ian Wasserman, increased its profits from £279,000 to £305,000 in the six months to September 30. The interim dividend rose from 0.15p to 0.18p.

In a half-year in which turnover dropped from £10.4 million to £8.9 million, the board regards the results as "a very satisfactory performance considering that Northampton machinery was sold on April 6."

The money realised from the sale of Northampton was redeployed in enlarging the company's stake in its associate, Porter Chadburn.

The board did not envisage much return on its investment in Porter in the current year.

The integration of Gardner Steel into Clarks of Stillington has resulted in the company's steel stockholding activities "going from strength to strength."

The group had built up a 13.5 per cent stake in East Lancashire Paper, the subject of a bid by British Syphon. After looking at the situation at a time when British Syphon had just substantially increased its offer, the group sold its shares to Syphon and this deal will make a "useful contribution to profits in the second half."

The board is looking for a satisfactory second half and together with the return on its £2.5 million investment in Porter Chadburn, this "should lead to a significant increase in profits and earnings."

ABBOT Ale brewer Greene King and Sons has gone into a joint venture with Roullet et Cie of the Cognac region of France to produce brandy. Greene has put in £178,000 in cash for a half share. The business will be expanded in the UK and world markets.

Hard pressed

Rotaprint, the duplicating machine supplier, is gradually withdrawing from profitless areas, but there is still little sign of a return to reasonable surplus. Indeed, the loss sustained in the six months to September 29 is one of the worst experienced and there is no real prospect of any profit on trading for the whole year. Consequently no dividends are contemplated even on the preference capital floated in a rescue operation two years ago.

Turnover for the six months was £300,000 lower at £7.05 million. Markets were difficult both at home and abroad, the board confirms, with confidence suppressed by the miners' strike.

After higher interest charges of £137,000 there was a pre-tax loss of £443,000, compared with the corresponding deficit of £165,000. The scale of the second half surplus will depend to some extent on the exchange rate which should be favourable by now, though losses are still being incurred in several foreign markets. Overhead reductions should be of benefit further ahead.

There has been no ordinary share dividend other than a nominal payment for over three years.

In short...

NASH Industries' profits fell from £676,000 to £267,000 in the year to September 30 after heavy losses in construction and printing. The board had expected a second-half loss on its development activities, and lower profits from engineering, but the position was further weakened by the discovery last August of serious discrepancies in the records of Dalkeith Press. Little more than breakeven is seen for the second half.

POWELL Duffryn has recommended its shareholders to reject the offer from Hanson Trust in view of the inadequacy of price and the drastic reduction of income, earnings and assets which would result from the acceptance of this offer.

BLACKWOOD Hodge has agreed terms for a £7.5 million sale of its Cummins diesel and Services group in Australia. This is £700,000 over book value.

MELLERWARE International, the UK's largest maker of holloware has applied to move up from the USM to a full official quotation.

Edited by Tony May

Equities dull but gilts stage modest rally

THE MARKETS

Stock markets had a much calmer trading session yesterday as dealers prepared for the long Christmas break. Leading shares sagged through want of interest, the OECD economic forecasts and the Bank of England bulletin warning on the impact of wage rises making little impression.

Food shares were worse hit than most on profit-taking, but other sectors came through largely unscathed apart from oils, which slipped further as Opec failed to reach agreement on price structure measures. Gilts staged a modest rally behind the steadier pound, but rises rarely exceeded three-eighths.

The announcement of a current account trade surplus for November of nearly £300 million made little impact. Secondary issues sported several plus signs as dealers tried to spot the next takeover candidate or shares that may be among the New Year "tips" in the press.

Tea shares sprung to life after a "put through" in Assam Dooars, well above the market price. Assam were marked up 552p to £10¼ and Western Dooars 347p to 750p. Others to join the advance included Eastern Produce at 343p, up 28p. Banks hardened a few pence, with the Scottish clearers particularly firm. Insurances lacked support with profit-taking among the brokers.

Falls among leaders were limited to between 2p and 5p, but Thorn EMI lost 10p to 442p ahead of interim figures due early next month. Reckitts tumbled 20p to 553p on news of the £165 million Airwick acquisition from Ciba-Geigy of Switzerland.

The Christmas preparations almost over, some dealers were looking towards next summer and the prospect of increased holiday bookings. Intasun, recently thwarted in their attempt to acquire Comfort Hotels by Ladbroke, rose 8p to 128p. Money brokers remained ian fivur so the City revlu in favour as the City revolution continued apace. Gold shares improved with the bullion price to finish around two dollars higher.

Bid hopes lifted Leyland Paint 3½p to 31½p. Blackwood Hodge firmed 2p to 23½p on news that the company had sold its Australian subsidiary. Speculative demand lifted Tilbury Group 9p to 121p.

Main changes: Thorn EMI 442p, down 10p; Eastern Produce 343p, up 28p; Intasun 128p, up 8p; BP 463p, down 7p; Reckitts 553p, down 20p; Tate & Lyle 425p, down 10p; Assam Dooars 1025p, up 522p; Western Dooars 750p, up 347p.

Turnover for December 20 was: Number of bargains 25,859; value £480.736 million.

● Frankfurt: Share prices finished higher in moderately active trading. The Commerzbank Index edged up 1.9 points to 1093.0 from Thursday's 1091.1.

● Paris: Share prices were ixed to lower in moderately active trading. Dealers said most shares drifted aimlessly in the absence of important external news. Concern about the dollar's rise and Wall Street's Thursday performance were cited as mildly bearish factors.

● Hong Kong: A surge in speculative buying carried share prices higher for the third consecutive day. Speculators were the primary force behind trading activity. Hang Seng Index: 1198.59 (1184.42).

● Tokyo: Share prices in Tokyo fell in heavy trading. Brokers blamed the drop on protectionism fears. Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 11,474.31 (11,514.15).

● Money markets: Business was rather slack in the periods. There was some issuing of paper in the ones and threes. The longer end looked a shade firmer at one time, but reverted to overnight level before the end of the day. Local authorities confined their attentions principally to money at seven days' notice.

FT Ordinary Share Index down 6.0 at 924.3. FT-SE 100 Index down 2.5 at 1204.7. Pound: $1.1735. DM 3.66: Fr 11.21. Gold: $310.88. Account: December 10 to 21. FT All Share Index down 2.23 at 579.98. Sterling Index 73.2 (1975=100). RPI 358.8 (November) up 4.9 per cent on year.

COMMODITIES

Copper: Cash £1,135.50 per tonne; three months £1,147 per tonne.
Tin: Cash £9,950 per tonne; three months £9,910 per tonne.
Lead: Cash £408 per tonne; three months £325 per tonne.
Zinc: Cash £682 per tonne; three months £682 per tonne.
Silver (LME): Spot 549p per troy oz; three months 560.5p.
Rubber: Spot 66.00p per kilo; Jan £660.00 per tonne.
Coffee: Jan £2249 per tonne; Mar £2264 per tonne; May £2246 per tonne; July £2284 per tonne; Sept £2245 per tonne.
Cocoa: Dec £1889 per tonne; Mar £1860 per tonne; May £1872 per tonne; July £1880 per tonne; Sept £1882 per tonne.
Cotton: Liverpool prices US cents per pound. US Memphis 1 1/16 inch strict middling, Dec–Jan, 74.00; US California 1⅛ inch strict middling, Dec–Jan 77.00; Sudan Barakat 1⅛ inch, Dec–Jan No. 38 108.50; Dec–Jan No. 5B 298.50; Dec–Jan No. 6B 293.00; Mexico 1 1/16 inch strict middling, Dec–Jan 72.75 offered.

UNIT TRUSTS

Fund	Bid	Offer
Abbey Unit Trust		
American	118.4	126.0
Comm & Gen	74.1	79.3
General	101.2	108.2
Gilt & Fxd	a111.7	118.2
HI Income	68.2	72.6
Japan	168.4	180.1
UK Grwth	63.3	68.1
Worldwide	a158.6	168.2
Allied Hambro		
Allied Cap	183.5	194.5
Allied 1st	155.1	164.4
Am Spec Sits	53.5	56.7
Assets	a150.3	159.3
Equity	94.0	99.6
Far East	a131.6	139.5
Growth	98.5	104.4
Gov Secs	28.2	29.4
Balanced	a264.0	279.8
do Acc	394.5	416.2
High Inc	170.9	181.2
High Yld	a111.7	117.3
Income Ex	a95.9	101.7
Internatl	64.4	68.3
Japan	a67.6	71.7
Met Min Com	88.8	94.1
Overseas	a142.9	151.5
Pacific	a123.5	130.9
Recovery	51.6	54.7
Secs of Am	a168.7	178.8
Smaller Cos	89.8	97.0
Sec Smaller	120.1	129.7
Small Co Ex	152.5	161.7
Technology	86.1	91.9
USA Exempt	272.9	289.3
Arbuthnot Securities		
Comm Sh	79.6	85.1
East & Int	98.5	105.6
Fin & Prop	41.4	44.2
Foreign Grwth	62.8	67.1
High Inc	52.8	56.4
N Am & Int	70.2	75.0
Pref Share	24.8	26.5
Smaller Cos	81.3	86.9
Archway		
Archway Fd	a203.2	216.2
Barclays Unicorn		
America	a72.3	76.9
Australia	a107.2	114.0
do Acc	147.3	156.5
Capital	157.6	167.6
Exempt	290.4	308.9
Extra Inc	51.0	54.2
Financial	a189.2	199.9
500 Trust	178.3	189.6
General	95.8	101.9
Gilt & Fixed	a51.4	53.8
Gr Pacific	100.2	106.5
do Acc	101.0	107.4
Growth Accum	123.8	131.6
Income Trust	222.1	236.2
Prof Assns	95.0	101.0
Recovery	128.7	136.9
Trustee Fd	a77.3	82.2
Worldwide	106.5	113.2
Baring Brothers		
Stratton	469.0	488.5
do Acc	689.3	718.0
Bridge		
Income	a95.6	104.5
Cap Inc	97.4	104.8
do Acc	124.0	133.4
Exempt	226.0	249.0
Britannia		
Am Growth	78.8	84.1
Am Small Cos	21.5	22.9
Am Spec Sits	a69.1	73.7
Australian	76.3	81.4
Commod	a132.1	140.9
Extra Inc	49.8	52.9
Far East	39.5	42.1
Gilt	a25.2	26.5
Gold & Gen	a20.4	22.0
Hong Kong Perf	22.3	23.8
Inc & Gr	140.3	149.6
Jap	39.0	41.6
National	137.3	146.4
Preference	a17.8	19.0
Smaller Cos	102.1	108.9
Spec Mkt Sits	70.7	75.4
Un Energy	62.0	66.1
World Tech	44.9	47.9
Brown Shipley		
Exempt	a148.8	160.0
Financial	87.0	93.1
Growth	102.9	110.6
do Acc	156.6	168.4
High Inc	45.3	53.5
Income	49.8	53.5
N Amer	a48.2	51.8
Recovery	a25.7	27.0
Unit Fd	46.1	49.6
Canada Life		
Gen Dist	85.2	89.7
do Acc	128.6	135.4
Inc Dist	57.6	60.0
do Acc	110.1	115.9
Chieftain		
American	43.9	47.0
Australian	20.8	22.3
Basic	36.3	38.9
Far East	63.6	67.9
High Inc	a38.8	41.7
Inc & Grwth	37.2	39.9
Internatl	58.1	61.3
Pref & Gilt	18.8	20.2
Small Cos	31.6	33.8
County Bank UT Managers		
Capital Acc	211.4	224.8
Extra Inc	116.5	123.9
Financial	87.5	93.0
Growth	211.9	225.4
Income	92.9	98.8
Portfolio	a135.7	142.0
Smaller Cos	132.0	140.4
Crescent Grow		
American	67.6	72.3
High Dist	76.5	81.9
Internatl	161.3	172.5
Resources	25.0	26.7
Tokyo	109.1	116.7
Discretionary		
Income	72.4	76.4
Duncan Lawrie Fund Managers		
Growth	20.2	21.7
Income	43.1	46.3
Overseas	77.5	83.3
Equity & Law		
Eq & Law	176.2	187.8
Far East Acc	95.5	101.5
Gilts & Fixed	74.5	78.4
do Acc	83.2	87.5
High Inc	128.4	136.5
do Acc	149.6	159.1
N Am Acc	114.8	122.1
UK Growth	99.1	105.4
do Acc	109.1	116.0
Fidelity		
American	82.6	87.9
Am Spec Sits	47.8	50.4
Managed	76.4	81.3
Growth & Inc	a61.8	63.8
Japan	80.9	86.1
Max Inc Eq	a51.5	54.8
Spec Sits	88.5	94.2
Framlington		
Amer & Gen	166.8	177.4
do Acc	168.6	179.2
Amer Turnrd	165.8	176.4
do Acc	169.6	180.4
Capital	134.8	143.4
do Acc	157.4	167.4
Conv & Gilt	a72.8	77.4
do Acc	91.0	96.6
Extra Inc	103.8	110.4
Income	a78.8	83.8
Inter Growth	133.6	142.0
do Acc	146.4	155.6
Japan & Gen	56.4	60.0
do Acc		
Recovery	86.4	92.0
do Acc	91.0	96.8
Friends Provident		
Equity	a149.9	158.6
do Acc	241.8	255.6
Fixed In	a100.6	107.5
do Acc	106.8	114.0
G & A Trust Managers		
G & A	85.2	90.3
Gartmore Fund Managers		
American	74.9	79.3
British	39.6	42.2
Commodity	a64.0	68.1
Extra Inc	34.4	36.6
Far East	75.2	80.1
Gilt	25.4	26.5
Global	104.1	110.8
High Inc	96.5	102.7
Inc	45.2	48.1
Insurance	34.65	37.06
Japan	72.7	77.8
Special Sit	64.3	68.5
Govett		
Intn'l Grth	a59.1	63.2
Guardian Royal Exchange		
Gilt	113.7	118.2
Grwth Eq	a145.2	154.5
Guardhill	228.8	237.0
N American	113.4	120.7
Pacific	134.1	142.7
Prop Share	144.7	154.0
Small Cos	150.8	160.5
G.T. Unit Managers		
Capital	63.7	68.2
European	126.5	135.4
Far East	79.9	85.5
Income	59.2	63.2
Internatl	96.6	103.4
Japan	141.9	151.8
Pension	135.2	141.6
Tech & Grth	64.3	69.5
US & Gen	44.2	47.3
Ltn Reserve	100.9	102.5
Henderson Administration		
Am Smaller Cos	45.1	48.5
Australian	63.6	67.4
Capital Grwth	44.6	47.7
do Acc	50.2	53.7
European	119.6	126.6
Euro Ex	240.9	250.9
Extra Inc	a172.5	120.3
Financial	a83.3	89.1
Fixed	a52.5	55.6
Gilt	44.5	46.8
Global Tech	a92.4	98.4
High Inc	116.1	123.6
High Inc E	a85.2	88.7
Inc & Assets	73.4	78.5
Inc & Grwth	a96.6	102.8
do Acc	a178.3	190.7
Internatl	109.4	117.1
Japan	88.2	93.9
Japan Ex	86.6	90.7
N American	125.5	134.9
N Amer Ex	a73.7	77.0
Oil & Nat	72.9	76.9
Pref & Gilt	a46.8	49.8
Recovery	75.5	81.2
Smllr Cos Ex	85.7	89.3
Smllr Cos Div	67.5	72.2
Special Sit	93.2	99.7
do Acc	128.5	137.4
Worldwide	247.3	260.3
Hill Samuel		
British	a372.9	396.8
Capital	69.6	74.1
Dollar	145.8	154.3
European	55.9	59.5
Far East	a82.4	88.4
Financial	238.5	253.8
General	284.0	298.0
Gilt & Fixed	a27.3	28.4
do Growth	37.8	39.3
High Yld	a45.9	48.9
Income	55.0	58.6
Internatl	90.2	96.0
Japan Tech	30.1	32.1
Nat Res	32.2	34.3
Security	121.4	129.2
Special Sit	72.8	77.1
James Finlay		
Fd of Invest	81.2	87.3
do Acc	117.4	126.2
High Inc	50.7	54.5
Wld Energy	16.2	17.4
do Acc	22.2	23.8
Key Fund Managers		
Eq and Gen	154.1	165.8
Fixed	57.6	61.9
Income	137.4	147.8
Legal & General		
Equity	202.0	216.0
do Acc	304.4	325.6
Gilt	66.5	70.4
Lloyds Bank		
Balanced	137.2	146.7
do Acc	235.2	251.5
Energy	49.6	53.0
do acc	53.0	56.6
Extra Inc	a108.1	115.0
do Acc	182.5	195.1
Income	180.9	193.4
do Acc	358.4	381.9
N Amer	88.5	94.6
do Acc	93.4	99.8
Sm Cos & Recr	124.5	133.1
do Acc	136.7	146.2
World Grth	a146.6	156.7
do Acc	203.2	217.3
Midland		
Capital	61.0	65.0
Com & Gen	117.8	124.7
Gilt & Fixed	a50.4	52.8
High Yld	107.7	114.8
Income	118.5	126.4
Japan & Pac	161.3	171.8
N American	a86.3	92.0
Overseas	76.0	81.0
Minster		
Exempt	203.6	209.6
Minster	91.8	94.6
M & G Group		
American	173.2	183.6
do Acc	195.8	207.5
Amer Recov	189.4	200.8
do Acc	202.1	214.2
Australia	87.7	94.7
do Acc	94.6	102.2
Charibond	107.2	107.2
Charifund	272.6	275.4
Commodity	181.6	192.5
do Acc	230.7	244.5
Comp. Grth	288.6	308.8
Conv. Grth	240.8	255.2
Conv Inc	140.5	148.9
Dividend	a267.8	283.9
do Acc	743.9	788.5
European	98.5	104.4
do Acc	115.9	122.9
Extra	151.5	160.6
do Acc	304.7	323.0
Far East	146.5	156.8
do Acc	175.2	187.5
Fd of Invest	a175.8	188.3
do Acc	266.7	282.7
General	415.4	440.3
do Acc	828.3	878.0
Gilt	a56.5	59.3
do Acc	77.0	80.8
High Inc	a205.6	217.9
do Acc	521.7	553.0
Japan	a455.8	483.1
do Acc	486.2	515.4
Int Growth	595.6	643.3
do Acc	913.7	986.8
Midland	349.3	370.3
do Acc	827.8	877.5
Pension	315.7	329.9
Recovery	211.1	228.0
do Acc	260.6	281.5
2nd Gen	a470.6	498.8
do Acc	892.6	946.2
Smallr Cos	475.2	508.7
do Acc	716.5	759.5
Trustee	298.2	320.1
National Provident		
Growth	a142.3	151.4
do Acc	222.2	236.4
Overseas	408.9	432.7
do Acc	489.8	518.4
Nel Managers		
Nelstar	—	—
do Gilt	66.4	68.1
do High Inc	55.7	58.6
do Intntl	—	—
Oppenheimer Fund Managers		
Practical	39.1	42.0
do Acc	68.6	73.7
Pearl		
Growth	61.6	65.6
do Acc	89.5	96.3
Income	78.5	83.6
Pearl	a86.3	91.9
do Acc	144.3	153.6
Prolific		
Far East	112.7	120.7
Extra Inc	a53.4	56.8
High Inc	114.7	122.0
Internatl	83.1	89.0
N Amer	108.2	115.9
Spec Sits	a130.3	138.6
Technology	a118.7	127.2
Prudential Trust		
Prudential	298.5	317.5
Reliance Unit Trust		
British Life	124.6	131.8
Reliance Inc	78.6	84.0
do Acc	100.5	107.3
Ridgefield		
Income	a94.2	100.2
Internatl	a217.4	231.3
Rothschild Asset Management		
America	232.1	244.3
do Acc	246.5	259.4
Energy Res	a174.1	183.2
Income	a289.5	304.7
Smaller Cos	103.6	109.9
Save and Prosper Group		
Capital	a80.3	85.8
Comm Share	51.1	54.3
Energy Ind	51.4	54.6
European Grwth	a52.3	55.6
Exploration	34.5	36.7
Financial	a60.6	64.8
Gilt Growth	71.4	72.2
Gilt Income	52.1	54.9
High Return	121.7	129.4
High Yld	104.8	111.4
Income	71.3	76.4
Internal Bond	91.4	97.2
ITU	64.1	68.6
Japan	54.7	58.1
Japan Smllr Co	82.9	87.7
New Tech	109.2	106.5
Scottish	87.5	93.5
Scotshares	a110.1	117.1
Scotyield	98.4	104.6
SE Asia	87.5	93.0
Select Inter	57.8	61.8
Smaller Cos	108.1	112.8
Spec Sits	66.2	70.8
UK Equity	122.9	131.4
Universal	65.6	69.7
US Growth	55.5	59.0
Schroder Unit Trust		
American	a106.0	107.2
do Acc	101.5	108.2
Australian	65.2	69.5
do Acc	68.8	73.3
Europe	58.5	62.3
do Acc	59.2	63.1
UK Equity	73.9	78.7
do Acc	109.3	116.3
Gilt & Fixed	53.3	56.2
do Acc	71.6	74.8
Income	a117.8	125.5
do Acc	248.2	264.5
Internatl	a82.5	87.9
do Acc	113.0	120.4
Smaller	a96.9	103.3
do Acc	178.9	188.5
Tokyo	122.8	131.7
do Acc	124.1	132.3
Pn & C Fund		
Recovery	538.5	574.0
Spec Exempt	933.0	994.6
Scottish Widows		
Pegasus	166.8	177.5
do Acc	184.9	196.8
Sun Alliance		
Equity Trust	295.6	314.4
Target Managers		
Amer Eagle	68.3	73.1
Commodity	82.9	89.9
Energy	42.6	45.6
Equity	a88.9	94.8
Eq Exempt	a541.8	577.9
Extra Inc	87.2	93.3
Financial	180.2	192.2
Gilt Cap	204.0	213.6
Gilt Inc	a102.3	107.1
Income	a54.4	58.2
Investment	94.2	105.0
Mal & Sing	29.7	31.7
Pacific	66.0	70.6
Preference	15.2	16.4
ProFinl	406.2	433.3
Special Sit	74.5	79.7
Worldwide Cap	103.1	110.0
Trades Union		
T.U.U.T.	115.9	122.0
Transatlantic		
Coinvest	340.1	355.8
do Acc	537.2	581.9
Fledgling	173.1	185.8
do Acc	185.2	198.8
Tyndall Managers		
Australian	a58.4	73.2
do Acc	70.0	74.9
Capital	258.0	273.6
do Acc	439.6	466.0
Exempt	a207.2	220.8
do Acc	436.4	464.8
Far Eastern	132.6	142.2
do Acc	140.5	150.5
Fin & Prop	36.3	38.7
Gilt Cap	110.1	114.5
do Acc	118.7	123.3
Gilt Inc	a103.0	106.9
do Acc	149.2	154.8
High Yield	38.0	40.5
do Acc	76.5	81.5
Income	a159.8	169.4
do Acc	461.0	488.8
Internatl	124.0	132.2
do Acc	174.2	185.6
Natural Res	192.4	205.0
do Acc	270.4	288.0
N American	104.7	112.1
do Acc	118.5	126.9
Preference	104.4	111.2
do Acc	238.4	254.0
Scottish	288.0	306.8
do Acc	298.4	318.0
Smaller Cos	131.6	140.2
Special Sits	a74.6	79.5
TSB Trust		
Extra Inc	80.9	86.1
General	115.1	122.5
do Acc	180.2	191.8
Income	a144.8	154.1
do Acc	213.9	227.6
Intl	224.2	238.6
do Acc	270.5	287.8
Pacific	115.6	123.0
Select Opp	43.8	46.6
do Acc	46.7	49.7
Vanguard Trust		
Vanguard Grth	116.6	124.4
do Acc	167.4	175.6
Vang High Yld	130.7	137.6
Vang Trust	a94.9	99.7
do Acc	136.3	143.1
Wardley Unit Trust Managers		
American	63.0	67.8
Australian	38.3	41.2
Nat. Res.	47.7	50.8
Far East	65.8	70.0
Income	55.5	59.7
Japan	68.9	74.1
Small Cos.	98.6	106.1
Technol.	34.6	38.9
UK Trust	a89.3	95.0

a Ex dividend b Offer assented c Non assented d Ex capital e Ex rights f Price adjusted pp Part Paid

THE STOCK EXCHANGE

Stock	Price	Change
British Funds		
(short) Treasury		
3pc 1985	97⅜	
9¼pc 88C	96 15/16	+⅛
11¼pc 1985	a100 13/16	+1/16
15pc 1985	100 11/16	−5/64
Exchequer		
12pc '85 Conv	a100 7/16	
(medium) Transport		
3pc 78–88	a81⅞	
Treasury		
10pc C86	99 7/16	
Exchequer		
10pc 1989	95 11/16	+⅛
10¼pc 1987	pp29⅞	
10½pc 1988	95⅞	+1/16
11pc 1991	100⅛	+⅛
11¼pc 1986	101⅜	
12¼pc 1985	101 13/16	+1/16
12½pc 1990	108⅜	+⅛
13¼pc 1987	a104 7/16	+1/16
10½pc 1987	99¼	+⅛
13½pc 1992	113⅜	+⅛
13¼pc 1994	113¼	+⅛
14pc 1986	105⅛	+1/16
2½pc 1986	88⅝	
Funding		
5¼pc 87–91	82¼	+⅛
6½pc 85–87	91⅝	
Treasury		
10pc 1987	96¼	+⅛
2pc IL 88	107⅛	+⅛
10½pc 1989	97⅝	−1/16
3pc 1987	a85⅝	
3pc 1986	93	
5pc 86–89	81⅛	
7¾pc 85–88	a92¼	
8¼pc 87–90	90⅜	+⅛
9½pc C89	94 11/16	+3/16
10pc 90C	96⅛	+⅛
8¾pc 84–86	a97 1/16	
10pc 1992	98	+⅛
10pc C92	99¼	+⅛
10½pc 87C	96 11/16	+⅛
11½pc 1989	101⅛	+⅛
11¾pc 1991	a101⅛	+⅛
12pc 1986	101¼	
13pc 1990	a106⅛	+⅛
(long) Exchequer		
10¼pc 1995	a93⅝	+⅛
10½pc 1997	100¼	+⅛
12pc 1998	107¼	+⅛
12pc 99–02	a106⅛	+⅛
12pc 13–17	118⅛	+⅛
12¼pc 1992	106⅝	+⅛
12¼pc 1999	111¼	+⅛
12¾pc 1994	111	+⅛
13¼pc 1996	114⅜	+⅛
15pc 1997	126⅛	+⅛
9¾pc 1998	a91⅛	+⅛
9¼ 1999 A	pp59⅛	+⅛
Funding		
6pc 1993	78⅜	+⅛
3½pc 99–04	a48⅛	+⅛
Treasury		
2pc IL 1996	110⅜	+⅛
2½pc IL 2003	99⅛	+⅛
2pc IL 2006	a102⅛	+⅛
2½pc IL 16	a95	+⅛
5½pc 08–12	62¼	+⅛
6¾pc 95–8	73¼	+⅛
7¾pc 12–15	a79⅛	+⅛
8pc 02–06	83⅛	+⅛
8¾pc 1997	88⅛	+⅛
9pc 1994	89⅛	+⅛
9pc 1992–96	90⅛	+⅛
9½pc 1999	a90¼	+⅛
10¼pc 99C	96⅛	+⅛
10½pc 1999	98⅛	+⅛
11½pc 01–04	103⅛	+⅛
11¾pc 03–07	a103⅛	+⅛
12pc 1995	a103	+⅛
12pc 1987	102 7/16	+1/16
12½pc 1993	a105¼	+⅛
12½pc 2005	116⅛	+⅛
12¾pc 1992	a106¼	+⅛
12¾pc 1995	110⅛	+⅛
13pc 2000	a114⅛	+⅛
13½pc 1997	a112¼	+⅛
13½pc 04–08	126⅛	+⅛
2½pc IL 2009	99⅛	+⅛
2½pc IL 2011	105⅛	+⅛
13¼pc 1993	114⅛	+⅛
13¾pc 00–03	a119⅛	+⅛
14pc 1996	a115½	+⅛
14pc 98–01	120¼	+⅛
14½pc 1994	123	+⅛
15¼pc 1996	126⅜	+⅛
15½pc 1998	132⅛	+⅛
2½pc 2020	94⅞	+⅛
Redemption		
3pc 86–96	69⅞	+⅛
Gas		
3pc 90–95	63⅞	+⅛
(undated) Consols		
2½pc	a25	+⅛
4pc	41	+⅛
Conversion		
3½pc	43	+⅛
10pc 02	98¼	+⅛
Treasury		
2½pc	25⅛	+⅛
3pc	30¼	+⅛
War Loan		
3½pc	a35¼	+⅛
Commnwlth Bnds		
NZ 7½pc 83–86	a£96	
S Rhodesia 2½pc 65–70	£180	
Corps & Boards		
Manchester 3pc 28	a£25	
Met. Water 3pc 'B'	£38½	
Banks & Disc Hses		
Allied Irish	126	
Ansbacher H	73	
ANZ Gp	360	+2
Bank Ireland	252	−6
Bnk Scot	489	+5
Barclays Bnk	554	+2
Brown Ship	a430	
Cater Allen	a513	
Clive Dis	69	+1
First Nat	76½	+½
Gerrard & Na	312	
Gooda D&M	44	
Guinness Pt	56	
Hambros Shs	a153	
Hill Sam	a313	
H.K. & Shai	84½	
King & Sx	170	
Kleinwort	330	
Lloyds	519	
Mercury Sec	408	−5
Midland	362	+3
Nat West	579	−3
Rea Bros-A	80	
RBk Scot	a250	+10
Schroders	728	
S. St. Aub	63	+2
Std Chard	474	
Union Dis	718	
Westpac	275	+2
Wintrust	240	
Financial Trusts		
Armour Tst	a18½	
Aust Agr	280	
Brit Arrow	84	
Chart'se	98	
Daily M Tr A	860	
Dalgety	a470	
Exco	598	+5
Inchcape	a388	
Lon Inv Tst	30	−½
M & G Hldgs	720	
Manson Fin	24	
Martin (P)	383	+8
Nach Secs	45	
Prov Fin	189	−1
Sime Darby	67	
Smith Bros	100	−2
Wagon Fin	64	

Stock	Price	Change
Breweries		
Ald Lyons	a156	
Bass	a470	−3
Bell A	158	−2
Belhaven	39	
Bodd Brew	79	−2
Brown M	a242	+2
Bulmer HP	149	−3
Davenport	238	
Devenish	414	
Distillers	294	−3
Forshaws	a420	
Greenall W	159	−1
Greene King	158	
Guinness	202	
Highland Dis	d67	
Higsons Brew	a83	
Invergordon	128	
Marston Thon	a59	
Scot Nw Bws	134½	−½
Try City Lnd	77	−1
Vaux Brew	262	
Whitbread A	a213	
Whitbrd Inv	a174	
Wolver & Dud	268	+2
Comm & Ind		
AAH	122	−1
AC Cars	40	
AGB Res	249	+5
AI Ind	37	
APV Hldgs	230	+2
Aaronson	73	
Adwest	154	
Alcan Al	£23¼	
Allen WG	27	
All Colloid	228	−4
All Plant	17	+½
Amber Day	9	
AMEC	a255	−1
Amersham	a327	−1
Amstrad	79	+1
Anchor Ch	171	
Ang TV-A	166	
Ang-A Ind	£11½	
Appleyard	39	
Arenson	24	−1
Argyll Grp	a261	−7
Arlington	166	
Ansty Eq	33½	−½
Amcliffe	54	+2
Ash & Lacy	425	
Ass Book	383	
Ass B Eng	13½	
Ass B Fds	202	
AB Ports	180	
Ass Dairies	d152	
Ass Eng	104	−1
Ass Fish	85	−1
Ass News	500	
Ass Paper	204	−1
Astra	9	
Audiotnics	8	
Ault & W	36	
Auto Prod	62	−1
Avana	554	−3
Avon Rbr	233	
BAT Ind	351	−2
BBA	a49	+1
BPB Ind	a278	
BSR	136	
BTR	588	−3
Babcock	141	−4
Bailey B	a28	
Bailey CH	231	+2½
Baird (W)	a338	
Bairstow	77	
Baker P	171	−3
Bamo	54	+2
Barbican	31	−1½
Barker, Dob	a9½	
Barr & W A	86	−2
Barratt Dv	76	−6
Barrow HP	42	
Bassett (G)	a146	−5
Bath & Ptl	278	
Beatson CK	138	
Beattie A	105	
Beazer	a362	−2
Beckman	a95	
Beecham	a385	+1
Bejam	d139	
Benrose	178	
Bentalls	74	+2
Bersfd SW	179	−2
Berisfords	116	−1
Besnak	343	
Bestobell	332	+7
Bstec	61	−1
Bett Bros	51	
Bibby (J)	275	
BICC	a235	−1
Biddle	148	+1
Billam J	81	+8
Birmid Q	85	
B'ham Mint	a215	
BL Ord	48	
Black P	188	
Blkwd Hdg	23½	+2
Blagden Inds	136	−2
Bluebird	73	
Blue Circle	478	
Blundell P	172	−2
BOC Grp	257	−3
Bolton Txt	16	
Booker M	a221	+3
Boosey H	131	
Boots	a190	−1
Borthwick	a25	−1
Boulton W	5	
Bowater	208	−3
Bowthorpe	408	
Braithwaite	122	
Brammer	274	−2
Brasway	d43	
Brick Dud	a65	
Bridon	107	−1
Br Aero	385	−5
Br BZ Con	12	
Br Car A	a92	−1
BET dfd	303	
BHS	a274	−1
Br Mohair	109	
BPC	a173	+1
Br Tar Prd	a82	
Br Vending	39	
Br Vita	162	−2
Bronx Eng	10	
Brooke Bond	124	
Brook St	78	
Brown & J	17	
Brn Bv Knt	a82	
Brown (J)	26	−1
Brown T'wse	129	−1
Brunning	a153	
Bruntons (M)	68	
Bryant	74	
BSG Intl	a22½	
Bullough	425	+5
Bulmer, Lb	275	
Bunzl	425	+2
Burco	18	
Burnette Hl	a150	−5
Burns And	44½	−½
Burton Ord	407	+1
Bttrfld Hvy	15	
Cable Wire	443	−3
Chory Sch	153	−3
Cam Elec Ind	368	−2
Camford	26	
Canning W	95	
Cape Inds	34	
Carclo Eng	160	
Carless Cpl	a160	−5
Carpets Int	29	
Carr (J)	a64	
Carr's Mill	a102	
Casket S	d46	
Castings	a63	
Cattle's	23½	
Cem Rnd	251	
Cen & Shr	10	+½
Central TV	210	−5
C.H. Indst	a47½	+½
Ch'lain Pha	a77½	
Chann Tnn	135	
Chloride	26	
Christie Tyl	39	−½
Christies Intl	478	
Clay (R)	103	−1
Clyde Burn	a128	
Coalite Ch	a226	
Coates Ord	a142	−2
Coates 'A'	a140	−2
Coats Pats	a138	−1
GDD Group	a84½	
Collins Ord	685	
Collins 'A'	553	+3
Combean	77	
Comb Eng	93	
Comfort Hts	a89	−1
Cone	a304	−3
Concentric	a63	
Cookson	465	−10
Cope Ind	a104	
Cope Alman	a133	+½
Corah	62½	+½
Cosalt	a59	
Costain Grp	358	+2
Countryside	214	
Court Furn	138	
Courtaulds	a126	−2
Cwn de Gt	38	
Crest N'son	87	
Croda Intl	122	−1
do dfd	83	
Crown Hse	138	
Crystalate	231	−3
Cray	617	−12
DRG	152	
Dale Elec	84	+3
Dats Gwtn	Suspended	
DPCE	425	+5
Davis, NM	a183	
Davies (G)	105	
Davy Corp	82	−1
Dwes Int	a268	
De La Rue	a780	−5
Debenhams	206	−2
Dee Corp	198	−7
Delta Met	a103	+2½
Deritend St	108	
Desoutter	136	
Dewhirst	95	−1
Dewhurst & D	16	+1
Diamond S	30	
Dixons Grp	559	−13
Dobson Pk	87	
Dom Hlds	73	
Dominion In	a83	+2
Douglas R	57	
Dwdy Mills	65½	
Dowty	187	
Dubilier	200	
Dufay Bit	38	−1
Dunhill	a273	−2
Dunlop	Suspended	
Duport	28½	
ERF	37	−4
E Lancs P	116	
Estn Prdce	330	+15
Edbro	a110	
Elbar Ind	50	
Elco Hdgs	a92	+1
EIS	a148	−4
Elect Cmpts	a328	
Elect Mchs	38	
Elect Rents	46	−2
Elliott B	a52½	
Ellis & Evd	218	+6
Ellis, Gold	78	
Elson & Rob	a83	
Elswick-H	a10½	
Emess Light	191	
Energy	a17	+1½
Empire Sts	90	+2
Eng China	256	−2
Erith	65	
Eur Ferries	a127½	
do 5pc Pref	110	−1
Eurotherm	318	+8
Excalibur	11½	
Extel	a290	+3
Exp Metal	93	
Farnell El	180	−1
FEB Intl	108	
Fenner	a130	
Ferranti	a168	
Ferguson	a148	−2
Fine Art	a77	
Finlan J	a95	
Finlay J	a121	+2
First Castle	107	−1
First Leisure	230	
Fisons	a288	−5
Fitch Lvll	191	
Flext	195	+1
Folkes NV	20	
Ford (Mtr)	25½	
Formlnster	150	+7
Foseco M	a177	−2
Foster Bros	116	+2
Fothergill	145	
Freemans	174	
Friedland DG	160	
French T	84	
French KR	a129	−1
Galliford	69	
Garford L	98	
Garton Eng	57	
Gears G	a147	
GEI Intl	a88	+4
Gen Elect	214	
Gestetner-A	66	+2
Gill & Duff	136	−2
Glaxo	a£10 61/64	−3/64
Gleeson	a219	
Glynwed	167	−1
Golding (A)	58	
Gomme	34	+5
Grampian	89	
Granada	186	
Grand Met	300	−3
Grattan W	a154	
GUS Ord	a704	
GUS 'A'	a694	
Greenbank	32	
Greenfield	49	
Greenhall	161	
GKN	190	+1
HAT Grp	112	
HTV NV	d128	−2
Habitat M	396	
Haden	178	+2
Hall Eng	314	
Hall (Mat)	a300	
Halma	206	+1
Halstead J	74	
Hampson	19½	
Hanson Tr	a308	+3
Hargreaves	a93	
Harris Qwy	212	+2
Har & Cros	421	
Hrsen T C	a71	
Hartwells	a85	
Hawker S	a411	−4
Hawtin	15	
Hpwth Cer	146	+1
Hpwth Grd	a463	−3
Hestair	a54	
Hewden S	34	−1
Hickling P	a47	
Hickson	450	+2
Higgs & H	288	
Hill & Sm	64	
Hillards	320	+2
Hollas Gp	26	
Hollis Bros	65	
Holt Lloyd	a67	
Home Charm	261	−1
Hopkinson	126	
Horizon Tvl	136	
Hse of Frs	314	
Hse of Lrs	118	−1
How'd Mac	7½	
Howden Gp	67½	−½
Ibstock Jsn	286	
Illwth Wrs	53	
Illwth Wrs A	51½	+½
ICI	740	−4
IMI	98	+½
ICL	92	
Imperial Gp	178	+1
Ingram H	100	−5
Initial	511	+1
Int Thom Org	a512	
Jessups	a62	+1
J'son Clrs	415	+2
Johnson FB	11	−1
J'son Mthy	70	
Johnston	a175	−5
Jones & Sh	41	
Jones E	76	
Jones Strd	133	
Jourdan T	116	
Kalamazoo	27	
Kennedy B	a250	−2
Kenning	105	
Kwikfit	a28	−1
Kwik Save	a178	−4
LCP	a105	−2
LRC Int	124	−1
Ladbroke	258	−2
Laffes Pr	28	
Laing-'A'	224	
Laird Group	145	
Lake & Elt	58	
Lambt Hwth	195	
Laporte Ind	398	−2
Lawtex	a58	+2
Lep Grp	a178	+1
Lex Service	288	−2
Leyland Pt	31½	+3½
Lilley FJC	68	
Link Hse	738	−7
Linread	30	
Lister	a59	
Lnl Dly Pst	226	
Lloyd (FH)	34	+½
Locker Thos	a21½	
Logica	392	−2
Lon & Mid'n	a174½	
Ldn Nor G	d76½	
Lon Pk Htl	345	
Lonsten	78	
Lonrho	161	−1
Lookers	98	
Lovell YJ	220	
Low & Bonar	244	
Low (Wm)	a505	
Lowe R H	32	+1
Lucas Inds	a241	−4
MCD Grp	89	
MFI Furn	247	
MK Elec	a313	−3
MY Dart	23	
Macarthys	145	−1
McC'dale	163	
Mackay (H)	67	−1
McKechnie	a125	
Mannet S	128	−2
Mngt Ag	152	
Mchstr Ship	200	
Manders	162	−1
Many Brz	a55	
Manor Mtrs	12	
Marchwiel	a260	−2
Marks & Spn	a116	−2
Marley	97	
Marling Ind	52½	−2
Marshalls H	a223	+2
Marsh'l Un	61	
Ma-Black	Suspended	
Martin (A)	a54	
Martonair	a298	
Matthews B	254	
Maunders J	122	
May & Hassl	92	
Maynards	a260	−6
Menzies J	a238	
Metal Box	a388	−4
Metal Clos	57	
Metalrax	152	
Methuen	Suspended	
Meyer	130	−1
Miller S	18	
Milletts	123	
Ms Intl	43	
M & Allen	355	
Mitchell CT	a70	+½
Molins	148	−1
Monk A	118	
More O'Fl	a93	
Morgan Cr	a197	
Moss Bros	340	
Mowlem	a212	
Muirhead	168	
Myson Grp	68	+1
NSS News	112	
Negretti	101	
Neil & Sper	39	
Neill J	129	+4
Newarthill	600	
Newman-T	97	
Newmark	188	
News Intl	500	
Nichols Vim	275	
Norcros	167	−2
North Eng	82	+1½
N. Foods	200	−4
Norton Opax	153	−2
Nova Kit	35	
Notts Manfg	208	+4
Nurdin & P	158	−2
Octopus Gp	840	
Office & El	153	
Ogilvy Mat	£20 9/16	+13/16
Owen O	186	−2
Oxford Inns	303	−2
Parker Kn 'A	165	
Pknd Text	a100	
Paterson Z	138	
do 'A'	138	
Pauls & W	a205	−3
Pearson (S)	583	−3
Peel Hldgs	292	
Peerless	93	
Pegler-Htly	a264	+2
Pentl'd Inds	290	+14
Pentos	34	+1½
Pettbow Hold	44	+1
Philcom	39	
Philips	a£13½	−½
Phoenix Tmb	130	+2
Photo-Me	£10 13/16	
Pifco Hldg	165	
Pilkington	286	+1
Pittard	a81	
Planet Grp	61	
Platignum	8	
Plaxton's	87	−1
Pleasurama	378	−2
Plessey	210	−2
Plysu	233	
Pochins	220	
Portals	a503	−2
Porter Chad	112	
Powell Duff	a413	+3
Pratt Eng	47	
Preedy	110	
Pressac	161	+1
Priest (B)	7	
PoW Hlts	98	
Pritchard	98½	−2
Prop Hsv	a19½	−2
Queens Moat	58	−1
Quick H & J	46	
Rea Hldgs	a301	+5
Racal Elect	258	+3
Ramar Txt	24	
Rank Org	276	
Ranks Hov	a126	
RHP	91½	−3½
Ransm S J	405	+2
Ratclf (FS)	49	
Raybeck	29	
Readicut	a24½	
Reckitt & Co	a553	−20
Redfearn	66	
Redland	a293	
Redman He	8½	
Reed (A)-A	105	
Reed Exec	126	
Reed Int	a534	−6
Renold	52	+½
Rentokil	156	
Renwick	130	
Restmore	115	
Reuters	291	
Rexmore	27	−½
RFD Grp	103	
Rich Leics	87	
Rich West	18	
RMC Gp	398	+2
Roberts Adld	a111	
Risn (Ths)	38	
Rock PLC	10	−½
Rockware	36	−1
Ropner H	a130	
Rotaflex	148	−2
Rothmans In	a173	+2
Rowlinson	33	
Rown Mack	a370	−8
Ruberoid	206	−1
Rugby P C	a128	−2
S & U Strs	22	
SGB Grp	132	
Saatchi C	905	−3
Sainsbury J	a290	−4
Sale Tilney	380	
Samuel A	87	
Sandhurst	88	
Sangers	Suspended	
Savile G	86	−1
Savoy-'A'	405	
Scapa Group	a420	
Scholes	425	
SEET	158	
Scotcros	Suspended	
Sears Hlds	89	−1
Securicor	256	+5
Securicor A	256	+5
Security S	280	+1
Seker Intl	a361	
Sellncourt	72	
Senior Eng	18	−½
Sharna	64	
Shaw Cpt	421	
Shiloh Spn	43	
Sidlaw	414	+2
Silentnight	a36	−1
Simon Eng	d228	
Sinler	133	+1
Sketchley	a365	−1
Smith DS	112	+2
Smith Hlgs	39	
Smith&Neph	221	−2
Smith WH	168	
Smiths Inds	a674	−13
Smurfit (J)	a140	
Sols' Law	26	
Spear-GW	35	−1
Spr & Jcks	a137	−2
Spirax-Sarco	232	+2
Squirrel H	35	−1
Staff Potts	92	
Stag Furn	62	−1
Staks (R)	162	−1
STC	286	+6
Stanley AG	43	
Star Comp	60	
Staveley Ind	a284	−2
Std Sign-A	147	+3
Steel Bros	462	
Steetley	285	−2
Steinberg	a77	
Stewart Pl	91	
String Grp	72	
Stocklake	140	−2
Stoth & Ptt	a154	−1
Strong F	136	−2
Sumner	7½	
Sunbeam Wol	53	
Sutcliffe	20	
TI Group	232	
TACE	333	
Tarmac	522	
Tate & Lyle	425	−10
Tay Rutl	52	
Tlr Woodrow	365	
Telefusion	34	−1
Tele Rents	200	+7
Tesco	231	−3
Text Jersey	68	−2
Thorn	442	−10
Thyr Bridx	18	
Tomkins FH	138	−1
Totai	367	−1
Tn Hotspur	74	
TZ Kar Ml	26	−1
Trafgr Hse	a331	
Trans Dev	105½	+½
Travis & A	286	
Trident 'A'	180	
Triplex FS	33	
Trusthouse	138	−1
Turner & N	108	−4
Turriff	293	
UBM	a150	
UKO Int	103	
Unigate	143	−1
Unilever	a£10 21/32	+1/16
Utd Bisc	a193	−1
Utd Parcels	a86	
Utd News	310	−5
Utd Scient	245	+2
Utd Wire	a111	
Valor	a165	−2
Vantona	267	
VG Instrs	244	
Vibroplant	133	
Vickers	211	−3
Vict Carpt	28	+2
Volex	133	
WGI	73	+4
Wadd J	475	−5
Wade Potts	a113	
Wadkin	113	
Wagon Ind	130	
Ward Hldgs	136	+1
Ward White	190	−2
Waring & G	118	
Waterford	34	
Wats Blk	210	
Webstrs	a135	
Wedgwood	a185	
Weir Group	371	−1½
Wellman Eng	12	+½
Westland	131	+4
Wettern	66	
Whessoe	96	−2
Whitecroft	154	
W'sale Fit	300	
Widney	18½	−½
Wigfall (H)	118	
Wilkes (J)	175	
Willys	45	
Wilms Cot	23½	
Wilms Hdgs	163	−2
Wimpey G	a115	
Wolsy-Hughs	d296	
Woist Bz	175	
Woodhead	27	−1
Wdhse & Rx	15	
Woolworth	575	
Yks Chem	62	−2

Stock	Price	Change
Insurance		
Alexander	£18⅞	−1/16
Britannic	586	
Comm Un	183	
Equity & L	253	−7
Genl Accdt	a513	−3
GRE	a665	−5
Heath C E	a553	+3
Hogg Rob'son	224	−2
Legl & Gn	548	
Lon & Man	673	−3
Lon Utd	248	+3
Marsh & McL	a£48 7/16	−⅛
Minet Hldgs	240	−11
Pearl	982	−2
Prudential	500	+2
Refuge	603	
Royal	a518	−5
Sedgwick	339	−5
S. Wrtsn	508	+5
Sun Al & L	a436	−2
Sun Life	777	−7
Trade Indem	220	
Willis Fabr	d583	+6
Windsor Sec	44	
Investment Trusts		
Alliance Trst	583	−2
Amr Tr	116	−1
AA Secs C	266	−2
Ashdown	390	
Atlas AT	89	−1
Bankers In	84	
Brit Amer	102	
Brit Assets	a191	
Brit IT	a330	−3
City & Cml	341	
Cons Vent	97	
Derby Inc	107	
Derby Cap	102	−2
Drayton Japn	382	−4
Drayton Cons	a288	
Drayton Prem	384	
Edin Am	181	
Electra	a113	
Eng & Int	227	
F&C Pac	145	+1
F & C Allian	83	+1
Family IT	186	+2
First Union	a190	
Fleming F.E.	288	
Fleming Mer	109	
Fleming Ovs	109	+1
Fleming Tech	152	
For & Col	129	
Fundinvest	41	
Fundinvest C	274	
Gen Funds	550	+2
Gen Stock	a140	+2
Globe IT	249	−2
Hambros	a142	
Hill (P) IT	227	+1
Inv In Suc	498	
Ivory Cap	20	
do Inc	63	
Lar Deb C	185	+2
Ldn, Gar	251	+1
Lon M Sec	80	−1
M & G Inc	312	
M & G Cap	444	
Merchants	87	
Murray Int	a107	
do 'B'	104	
Murray Grth	a86½	−1
Murray Int	112	−1½
Murray Sml	a160	
do 'B'	154	−2
Murray Vent	265	−1
N'Thr Inc	a33½	
N'Thr Cap	28½	−½
River & Ml	125	+2
Robeco	£16½	−½
Rolinco	£15	−½
Scot Amer In	210	−1
Scot North	119	−1
Sec Alliance	498	−4
Shires IT	a222	+1
Smaller Cos	a65	
Stockhldrs	a114	
Tr Aust Cr	a91	−1
Tr Ind Gen	140	−1
Tr Tech IT	a88	−1
Tr Trustees	128	
Thrgmn Tr	211	
Trpvest Inc	771	
Trpvest Cap	708	−4
Viking	76	−2
SA Mines		
AA Corp	$11 11/16	+9/16
AA Gold	$83½	+1½
Blyvoor Gld	$8	+9/16
Bracken M	180c	+10
Buffs GM	$35	+½
Doornfntn	$15⅛	−⅛
Driefontein	$25⅛	+⅛
E Rand Pr	$7⅞	+⅛
Fr Stt Gsd	$22⅛	+⅛
Gencor	$12⅛	+1
GFSA	$13⅛	
Grt Prop	$8⅛	+⅛
Harmony	$13⅛	+11/16
Hartebeest G	493c	+25
J'burg C In	$8⅞	+½
Kloof GM	$37⅛	+½
Leslie GM	255c	
Loraine	310c	−5
Middle Wit	382	
Pres Brand	$26⅛	+½
Pres Steyn	$29	+1½
Randfontn	$95⅛	+4
St Helena	$17⅛	+½
SA Land	315c	
Stlfnt GM	$10⅞	+½
Vaal Reefs	$84	+1¼
V'post GM	$88	
Vlakfntn	188c	
Welkom	$7 5/16	+⅛
W Rand C	$5⅛	+⅛
W Deep L	$36⅞	+1
Wests Hgs	$23⅞	+1½
Winkelhk	$30	−1
Mining		
AA Inv Tst	£38⅞	+1½
Ayer Hitm	a260	
Br Hill Pry	a352	+5
Charter Con	190	+4
Cons Gold	482	+8
Cons Murch	£5½	−½
De Beers Pr	£7	
De Beers dfd	382	+2
Hmp GMA	156	+3
M'lay T Or	54	
Nmx (Tr)	113	
MTD (Man)	13	
Minorco	534	−10
Nth B'Hill	141	+1
Rio Tinto Z	a682	−5
Tronoh Mal	275	
Vaals GFT	100	
W Mining Co	138	
Zmbn Cpp Br	14	
New Issues		
BT	100	−½
Jaguar	228	−½
Osprey	a32	−3
Our Price	333	−3
Robertson	a241	

a Ex dividend b Offer assented c Non assented d Ex capital e Ex rights f Price adjusted pp Part Paid

Stock	Price	Change
Oil		
Amril Pet	53	−2
Brit-Borneo	a298	+3
Bristol	22	−2
BP	463	−7
Britoil	193	−5
Burmah	a215	−3
Century	a66	
Charterhall	a50	−1
C'house Pet	107	−2
Clyde Pet	85	−3
Enterprise	175	−1
Hunting Pt	132	
Imp C Gas	298	
LASMO Ops	410	
LASMO Ord	313	
Petrocon	134	
Premier Cons	48	−2
Rvl Dutch	£40 63/64	+5/32
Shell Trns	628	−3
Tricentrol	190	−3
Ultramar	200	−5
Property		
Allied Lndn	a106	−1
Bellway	a130	
Billon (P)	222	−2
Bradford Pro	a368	−2
Brit Land	142½	−½
Brixtn Est	138	−1
Cap & Cnt	a208	
Chrtrl Est	228	
Chesterfield	a450	
Connells Est	96	
Control Sec	37½	−½
Daejan	318	
Est Prp Inv	a157	
Evans-Leeds	a75	
Grt Port E	a162	+2
Greycoat	200	
Hammrsn-A	505	+5
Haslemere	502	
Laing Prop	300	−2
Land Sec	310	
Lynton	a321	
Marlborough	a56	
MEPC	a312	
Mountleigh	240	
Mountview	330	
Mucklow	a81	
Peachey Pr	233	−2
Prop Hldg	112	−1
Prop Sec In	128	−2
Raglan	8½	
Rush & T	a212	
Samuel Prop	a148	
Scot Met P	a84	−1
Slough Ests	138	
Sterling	a65	
Stock Conv	433	+3
Traffd Pk	186	
Utd Real	530	+5
Warnford	425	
Webb (J)	25	
Rubber		
Barlow Hlds	101	
Grnd Cent	5	
High & Low	Suspended	
Shipping		
Br & Com	a230	+2
Common Br	99	
Hunts G	88	
40M Stm	108	
Jacobs (J)	52½	
LOFS	31	
Ocean T & T	126	
P & O Dfd	304	
Reardon 'A'	5½	
Runciman	a75	−1
Tea & Coffee		
Camellia	£17½	+½
Lawrie	£10½	+½

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Austria	25	Greece	160	Portugal	193
Belgium	71.75	Ireland	1.16	Spain	196
Canada	1.54	Italy	2,200	Sweden	16.31
Denmark	12.95	Malta	0.62	Switzerland	2.94
France	11	Netherlands	4.06	USA	1.17
Germany	3.59	Norway	10.45	Yugoslavia	275

STERLING RATES

	Closing Market Rates	Previous Closing Rates	FORWARD RATES (One month)
Australia	1.4020–1.4050	1.4069–1.4092	
Austria	25.71–25.79	25.37–25.41	5 to 2.875 groschen premium
Belgium	73.43–73.68	72.63–72.80	4c to 9c discount
Canada	1.5418–1.5463	1.5354–1.5379	0.05c to 0.09c discount
Denmark	13.05–13.10	12.99–13.01	2.375 to 1.125 ore premium
France	11.15–11.20	11.11–11.13	0.875c to 1.50c discount
Germany	3.64–3.66	3.63–3.64	1.375 to 1.125 pfennig pre
Greece	147.90–150.89	147.10–150.08	
Hong Kong	9.11–9.16	9.17–9.18	
Ireland	1.1716–1.1737	1.1675–1.1775	
Italy	2,242–2,253	2,235–2,240	
Japan	290.25–291.17	288.61–289.10	7 to 11 lire discount
Netherlands	4.11–4.14	4.10–4.11	
Norway	10.58–10.62	10.51–10.52	1.375c to 1.25c premium
Portugal	195.43–197.11	193.89–196.47	2.50 to 3.25 ore discount
Spain	201.94–202.92	200.06–200.44	180 to 595 escudos discount
Sweden	10.45–10.48	10.36–10.37	
Switzerland	3.00–3.01	2.99–3.00	1.375 to 1.875 ore premium
USA	1.1720–1.1750	1.1655–1.1670	1.50c to 1.125c premium
			0.12c to 0.10c premium

Dollar cross rates against: Swiss franc 2.56; French franc 9.53; DM 3.12; yen 247.80.

INTEREST RATES

UK HIGH STREET %

Bank deposit rate: 6.25–6.75
Bank base rate: 9.5–9.75
Bank overdraft: 10.5–13
Building society mortgage: 12.5–13
Building society deposit: 7.75
Finance house rate: 10.5

UK MONEY MARKETS %

	7 day	1 month	3 months	6 months
Treasury bills	—	9 13/16	9 9/32	—
Eligible bills	—	9 13/16	9 5/32	—
Interbank rate	9¾	9⅞	10	9¾
Discount market	9¼	—	—	10 1/16

INTERNATIONAL MONEY MARKETS %

	1 month	3 months	6 months
Eurodollar	8 7/16	8 11/16	9¼
Euro DM	6 5/16	5 11/16	5 9/16
Euro Fr fr	10 15/16	10 13/16	11 1/16
Euro Sw fr	5¼	5	4 15/16

US INTEREST RATES: Federal Funds 8¼ US prime rates 10¾–11¼

هكذا من الأصل

مكبرا من الاصل

CONCERTS

London

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LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET
The Nutcracker
26 Dec.–16 Jan. Evenings 7.30 Matinees 3.00
Artistic Director PETER SCHAUFUSS, star of BBC TV's 'Dancer' Series.
Seats £3–£11. Concessions. No performance on Sundays.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Saturday 22 Dec 7.45 pm — NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRA Vivienne Price (cond) Berlioz Overture Roman Carnival Britten Simple Symphony Strauss Horn Conc No 1 (1st mvt) Handel Concerto Grosso Op 6 8 wks by Rimsky-Korsakov, Anthony Carter, etc £1.50 £2.50 £3 £5 (only) National Children's Orch

THE JOEYS at CHRISTMAS
26–30 Dec. Evenings at 7.45 Queen Elizabeth Hall. £4 £5 £6. 'A longdrawn dosage' of stylish satire and political comedy from a 'distinctly lunatic and very funny' four-man team

PURCELL ROOM

THE TEN-DAY WONDER FAMILY FESTIVAL 27 DEC–5 JAN
An Extravaganza of Fun for children of all ages.
FREE PLAYSHOPS — mornings at 11 in Queen Elizabeth Foyer. Admission FREE. 27, 28, 29 Dec Magic Box Entertainment. 30, 31 Dec. Circus Skills. 1, 2, 3 Jan Acrobatics & Tumbling. 4, 5 Jan Dance with London Festival Ballet.
PERFORMANCES at 2.30 in Purcell Room. Adults £1, children under sixteen 50p 27, 28, 29 Dec David Wood's Magic & Music Show. 30, 31 Dec Reg Bolton's Suitcase Circus; 1, 2 Jan Derek Carpenter presents Puppetsville; 3 Jan. Derek Carpenter's Clown & Puppet Show, 4, 5 Jan The Singing Kettle. Free Creche — Ring Box Office for details.

GLC Working for the Arts in London

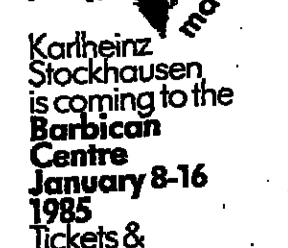
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Owned, funded and managed by the Corporation of the City of London

Sun/Thurs December 23/27 3.00pm	THE SNOWMAN (Blake) Prokofiev: Peter and the Wolf. Howard Blake conducts Sinfonia of London. Ian Lavender (narrator) All seats £3.50 Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Wednesday December 26 7.30pm	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. Lionel Friend (cond) Peter Donohoe (piano) Beethoven: Overture 'Coriolan', Piano Concerto No5, 'Emperor', Symphony No3, 'Eroica' £8.50, £7.50, £6.50, £5.80, £4.50 Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Thursday December 27 8.00pm	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. James Judd (cond) Howard Shelley (piano) Rossini: Overture 'The Barber of Seville' Grieg: Peer Gynt Suite No1 Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No2 Tchaikovsky: Symphony No6 'Pathétique' £7.50, £6.80 only Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Friday December 28 3.00pm	THAT'S CRICKET. Brian Johnston leads his panel of guest celebrities Tom Graveney and Fred Trueman in a fascinating discussion on cricket through the years. Interesting archive film material researched and assembled by John Hamley. All seats £4 Raymond Gubbay Ltd.
Friday December 28 8.00pm	JOSHUA RIFKIN plays Scott Joplin. New programme includes Fig Leaf Rag, Sugar Cane, The Entertainer, Search Light Rag, Rose Leaf Rag, Wall Street Rag, Paragon Rag, Scott Joplin's New Rag. £7.50, £6, £4.50, £3 Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Saturday December 29 3.00pm	NAPOLEON. Abel Gance's epic film. The Wren Orchestra of London. Carl Davis (cond). The film runs for about 5¼ hours plus intervals £18.50 £14.50 £12.50, £10 Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Sunday December 30 3.00pm	BEECHAM MARATHON. Timothy West (Beecham) By Caryl Brahms and Ned Sherrin with Terry Wale. Directed by Patrick Garland. Timothy West recreating his highly acclaimed portrayal of Sir Thomas Beecham £6.50, £5, £3.50, £2.50, Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Sunday December 30 7.30pm	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. Nicholas Cleobury (cond) Robert Cohen (cello) Mendelssohn: 'The Hebrides' (Fingal's Cave) Mozart: Eine Kleine Nachtmusik Elgar: Cello Concerto Beethoven: Symphony No6 'Pastoral'. £8.50, £7.50, £6.50, £5.80, £4.50 Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Monday/Tuesday December 31/January 1 7.45pm	NEW YEAR VIENNESE CONCERTS. London Symphony Orchestra. John Georgiadis (cond./violin) Johann Strauss II: Almack Quadrille, Radetzky March, William Tell Galop. Johann Strauss II: Overture 'Die Fledermaus' Tritsch Tratsch Polka, Roses from the South Waltz, Thunder and Lightning Polka, Blue Danube Waltz Johann Strauss II & Josef Strauss: Pizzicato Polka Carl Ziehrer: Busserl (Kissing) Polka Mazurka Josef Strauss: Feuerfest Polka Eduard Strauss: Feste Gestier Waltz £7.50, £6.50 £5.50, £4, £3
Wednesday January 2 5.00pm	NEW YEAR'S TEDDY BEARS' CONCERT. London Concert Orchestra. Fraser Goulding (cond). Ian Wallace (narrator) A concert for all the family. Please bring your own teddy bears. Come early and meet the bears. 2pm £5 £3.50. 5pm a few seats still available Raymond Gubbay Ltd.
Thursday/Saturday January 3/5 7.45pm	An evening with Cleo Laine and the John Dankworth Quintet with the London Symphony Orchestra. £10, £8, £6, £4
Friday January 4 7.45pm	LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. Paul Freeman (cond) Maximiliano Dessentel (piano) Verdi: Overture 'The Force of Destiny' Brahms: Piano Concerto No2 Beethoven: Symphony No5. £8, £7 £6 £5, £3.50, £2.50 John Higram International Artists

Wigmore Hall
Box Office/Credit Cards 01-935 2141 Manager William Lyne
Mailing list £2.20 a year

Friday, Dec. 28, 7.30 p.m.	GUILDHALL STRING ENSEMBLE £4, £3.20, £2.50, £1.80 Mendelssohn/Italian Series.	Wolf: Italian Serenade; Rodolfo: String Sonata No. 3; Mendelssohn: String Symphony No. 9; Tchaikovsky: Souvenir de Florence.
Saturday Dec. 29 7.30 p.m.	CHILINGIRIAN STRING QUARTET JONATHAN WILLIAMS horn, £4.50, £3.50, £2.50, £2.	Haydn: Quartet in B flat Op 76 No 4 Sunrise; Mozart: Horn Quintet in E flat K407; Beethoven: Quartet in E minor Op 59 No 2 "Rasumovsky." — Wigmore Master Concerts.
Sunday, Dec. 30 7.30 p.m.	MAGGIE COLE harpsichord & lute harpsichord NIGEL NORTH lute £4.50, £3.50, £2.50, £2.	J S Bach: Partita in D BWV828; Suite in G BWV996 Suite in E flat BWV1010, Trio Sonata in F BWV530. Early Music & Baroque Series/Guitar & Lute Series. Robert White Artist Management.
Monday, Dec. 31 7.30 p.m.	THE KING'S CONSORT dir. Robert King £6, £5, £4, £3. The King's Consort	A New Year's Eve Celebration: Monteverdi: Vespers for Christmas Day; Schutz: The Christmas Story.
Wednesday, Jan. 2, 7.30 p.m.	RICHARD MARKHAM and DAVID NETTLE two pianos £4, £3.20, £2.50, £1.80 Ron Gonsalves	Holst: The Planets; Robert Walker: Pucnacaglia (1st perf.) Grainger: Fantasy on Gershwin's "Porgy & Bess."
Thursday, Jan. 3, 7.30 p.m.	PETERBOROUGH STRING ORCHESTRA £4, £3.20, £2.50, £1.80.	Mozart: Divertimento in F K138; Stravinsky: Concerto in D Basle; Christopher Brown: Into the Sun (1st perf). Barber: Adagio; Britten: Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge Op 10.
Friday, Jan. 4, 7.30 p.m.	SETH SPENDLOVE, violin MICHAEL DUSSEK, piano £4, £3.20, £2.50, £1.80 Jane Gray	Brahms: Sonatensatz; Poulenc: Violin Sonata; Mozart: Six Miniatures; Mendelssohn: Violin Sonata in F minor Op 4; Berkeley: Elegy and Toccata Op 33, Nos 2 & 3; Szymanowski: Fontaine d'Arethuse; Kreisler: Tambourin Chinois.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL. THE JOEYS. Dec. 26-30, 7.45 p.m. Box Office Tel 01-928 3191. CC 928 8800. SS.



Karlheinz Stockhausen is coming to the Barbican Centre January 8-16 1985
Tickets & information 01-638 8891 01-628 8795
BBC

THEATRES

London

ADELPHI THEATRE. 01-836 7611/2. CC 01-836 7358. CC bookings 741 9999/379 6433. Group Sales 930 6125. Rudyard Kipling's JUNGLE BOOK The play starring FENELLA FIELDING and JEREMY SINDEN Directed by JOHN HARTOCH. "Kipling is clearly back" Gdn. "The adaptation bespeaks a genuine love of the original" D. Tel. "Fascinating" D. Mail. Evgs 7.0, Mats. Wed., Sat. 3.0 for a Season.

ADELPHI THEATRE. 836 7611. CC 836 7358. Group Sales 930-6123. THE LAMBETH WALK MUSICAL ME & MY GIRL ROBERT LINDSAY FRANK THORNTON EMMA THOMPSON Prev from Feb 2. Opens Feb 12.

ALBERY. 836 3878. CC 379 6565. 379 6433. Group Sales 930 6123. 836 3962. 379 7179. Evgs. 8, Thurs. Mat. 3.0, Sat. 5.0 and 8.15. "OH BOY WHAT A HOOT" (P. O'Neill) Daily Mail "A RAPTUROUS WELCOME BACK" BBC for Sandy Wilson's Wondrous Musical Mail on Sunday THE BOY FRIEND DEREK WARING PETER BAYLISS PADDIE O'NEIL "Blissfully Funny" Times "A Ripping Show" D. Tel. No perf. Dec. 24-25. Extra Mats Dec. 28-31 at 3.0.

ALDWYCH THEATRE. 836 6404/0641. CC 379 6233. Group Sales 930 6123. Mon-Thurs. 8. Fri. & Sat. 5 & 8.30. ROWAN ATKINSON IS THE NERD by LARRY SHUE Directed by MIKE OCKRENT "An ambulatory Amityville horror . . . a wonderful display of grotesque comedy" Guardian. "RIB-SHATTERINGLY FUNNY" Time Out. "BLISSFULLY LUDICROUS" F.T. No perf. Dec. 24, 25.

AMBASSADORS. 836 6111. CC 741 9999. Grp. Sales 930 6123. Evgs. 8.0, Sat. 5.30 & 8.30, Tues., Mat. 3.0. No Perf. Dec. 24, 25. Dec. 26 at 3.0 & 8.0. THE LITTLE THEATRE OF COMEDY COMPANY ALAN AYCKBOURN'S INTIMATE EXCHANGES This Week: A PAGEANT Directed by ALAN AYCKBOURN. "The most exciting theatrical concept to have hit the West End since The Norman Conquests." S. Express.

APOLLO Shafts Ave. S CC 01-437 2663. 434 3598. Grp. Sales 01-930 6123. Mon. to Fri. 8.00. Thurs. 3.00, Sat. 5.00 & 8.30. No perfs. Dec. 24/25. Extra Mat. Dec. 26 at 5.0. KEITH BAXTER in MILO O'SHEA "CORPSE!" by Gerald Moon "A WILD COMEDY THRILLER." D. Mail. "NOT SO MUCH A WHODUNNIT AS A WHODUNNIT TO WHOM". ½ price on the price seats for children. all Mat. perfs.

APOLLO VICTORIA. 828 8665. CC 630 6262. Group Sales 930 6123 STARLIGHT EXPRESS Music by ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER Lyrics by RICHARD STILGOE Directed by TREVOR NUNN "A MUSICAL THAT SURPASSES ANYTHING AROUND IN EVERY DIMENSION." D. Exp. Evgs. 7.45. Mats. Tue. & Sat. 3.0. BOX OFFICE OPEN 10 am-8 pm 100 TICKETS ARE HELD FOR Tuesday matinees only, available at the Box Office from 10 am on day of performance, limited to 2 per person. Some £2 standing room tickets are available ½ hour before every performance for the unwaged and students. APPLY DAILY TO BOX OFFICE FOR RETURNS. Now booking to September 1985 NO PERF. DEC 24/25. EXTRA MAT THUR., DEC 27 AT 3.0.

ARTS. 836 2132. Leics. Sq. Tube FEMALE PARTS by DARIO FO & FRANCA RAME. "Recommended" T.Out. Tues to Sat. 8.30, Sun at 7.30. No perfs Dec. 24, 25, 26.

ASHCROFT CROYDON. 01-688 9291. CC 01-680 5955. Until Jan. 19. TREASURE ISLAND A swashbuckling musical with FRANK WINDSOR as Long John Silver, MARK WYNTER, NICHOLAS SMITH, ASHLEY KNIGHT and crew. BOOK NOW!

ASTORIA THEATRE (next to Tottenham Court Road Station). Box Office 734 4291/8/9. CC 379 6433. Group Sales 930 6123. ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER presents MELVYN BRAGG & HOWARD GOODALL'S THE HIRED MAN "UNBEATABLE & UNMISSABLE" Punch. "Howard Goodall's score is one of the finest I have heard in a British musical in years" Guardian. "A HIGHLIGHT OF THIS YEAR & A MAGNIFICENT BRITISH ACHIEVEMENT." Time Out. "BEST MUSICAL OF THE YEAR." Punch Evgs. 8.0. Mats Wed 3.0, Sat. 4.0. NB: No perf. Dec. 24/25. Extra mat. Thur. Dec. 27 at 3.0.

BARBICAN. 01-628 8795/638 8891 CC (Mon.-Sun. 10 am-8 pm). For inclusive hotel/ticket package 01-930 7111. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY BARBICAN THEATRE. PETER PAN today 2.0 & 7.30. Seats avail. for eve perfs Jan. 15, 17 (runs thru 15). CHRIST CHURCH, SPITALFIELDS, LONDON EC1. THE WINTERS TALE final perf. ton't 7.30. Tickets from Barbican.

BLOOMSBURY THEATRE 387 9689 / 380 1453 / 379 6433. CC 380 1453 DAVID WOOD'S THE GINGERBREAD MAN starring PETER DUNCAN UNTIL JAN. 13. TODAY PERFS. 2.30 & 5.30 & SUN. PERF. 3.30. Next week Wed. 5.30, Thur. & Fri. 2.30 & 5.30. (Contact Box Office for further perf times the Sun). Half price child's ticket with each adult ticket (Sat & Sun only).

BUSH THEATRE, 743 3388. SIMON CALLOW in MELANCHOLY JACQUES. Tont. & tomor. 8 pm. No perfs Dec. 24-26.

COMEDY 01-930 2578. CC 839 1438. Evgs 8.0, Fri. and Sat. 6.0 & 8.45. BEST MUSICAL — Evg. Std. THE INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING SMASH HIT LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS 2nd GREAT YEAR "I LOVED IT—HOPE IT RUNS FOR A 1,000 YEARS"— T. Out. SEATS at same perfs from £6. Group Sales Box Office 930 6123. NB: No perf. Dec. 24/25. Extra mat. Thur. Dec 27 at 3.0.

COTTESLOE. 928 2252 CC 928 5933 S (National Theatre's small auditorium — low price tkts.). Preview tont. & Dec. 26 at 7.30, then Jan. 17 & 18. Opens Jan. 19 THE NATIVITY. (The building will be closed Dec. 24/25).

FORTUNE 01-836 2238. CC 379 6433. Until Jan. 12 (no perf. Dec. 25). Still few seats avail. Mon.-Fri. 1.30 & 4.30. Sat. 11 & 2.0. TOAD OF TOAD HALL 25th Consecutive London Season of A. A. Milne's classic children's musical.

CRITERION. S. 930 3216. CC 379 6565/741 9999/379 6433. Groups 836 3962. Evgs. 8.00, Thur. mats., 2.30. Sats. 5.30 & 8.30. THE DAILY MIRROR & THE DAILY MAIL AGREE . . . BRITISH FARCE AT ITS BEST The Theatre of Comedy Company JAMES BOLAM BERNARD CRIBBINS BRYAN PRINGLE in RUN FOR YOUR WIFE written and directed by RAY COONEY Over 700 side-splitting perfs. "SHOULD RUN FOR LIFE" S. Express. Special Theatre Dinner Criterion Brasserie/Stalls or Circle Tkt £13.50. No perf. Dec. 25. Extra Mat. Dec. 26 at 2.30

DOMINION THEATRE. Tot. Ct. Rd. W1 Until Feb. 9. Ton't. 7.30. Subs 2.30 & 7.30. Theatre closed Christmas Day. KEITH HARRIS & ORVILLE in HUMPTY DUMPTY A new Musical Pantomime Book NOW for Christmas Tickets from £3.50 to £7.50 £2 OFF: Children & OAPs. 01-580 9562/3. CC 01-323 1576/8.

DONMAR WAREHOUSE. Earlham St. Cov. Gdn. 379 6565/379 6433 (No perfs. Dec. 24/25/26/Jan 1). Evgs. 7.30 MAJOR ROAD THEATRE COMPANY IN MOHICANS AND AT 9 30 pm FASCINATING AIDA CHRISTMAS CABARET

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL. 01-836 8108, 01-240 9066, 01-240 9067. DAVID MERRICK'S Award Winning Broadway Musical 42ND STREET "A BLISSFUL EVENING, EVERYTHING POSSIBLE FOR A MUSICAL TO HAVE AND STILL PLENTY MORE — DAZZLING!" D. Mail. "EXHILARATING," D. Tel. "YOU WON'T FIND A SHOW IN LONDON WITH MORE RAZZLE DAZZLE." D. Exp. Evgs. 8.0, Mats Wed 3.0, Sats. 5.0 & 8.30. Group Sales 01-930 6123. Booking until July 1985. BOX OFFICE OPEN Mon.-Sat. 10 am-8 pm. Special demand extra matinee Thurs., Dec. 27, at 3.0.

DUCHESS THEATRE. 836 8243. 240 9648. HELEN MIRREN IN EXTREMITIES A new play by William Mastrosimone "A potent piece of real raw drama." D. Mail. "A powerful and disturbing thriller." Std. Evgs. Mon.-Fri. 8.0. Mats. Weds. 3.0. Sat. 5.30 & 8.30. SUITABLE FOR ADULTS ONLY.

DUKE OF YORK'S. S 836 5122. CC 836 9837/379 6433. Grp Sales 930 6123. Evgs. 8 Mat Thu 3. Sat 5 & 8.30. "TRIUMPH ON TAP" Eve Std. STEPPING OUT The Hit Comedy by Richard Harris Directed by Julia McKenzie "LAUGH YOURSELF SILLY" T. Out. "Had the first night audience yelling for more." D. Mail. "Must surely take the town . . . GO NOW." D. Tel. "Roars of approval." Times. "It's going to tap, tap, tap forever." NoW. "A brand new All Dancing, All Joking Smash Hit Comedy . . . A GREAT EVENING." B.B.C.

FRED GORE PRESENTS BRIGHT SHINES THE MOON A New Year treat on Dec 31 & Jan 1 at 7 45 pm Russian, Ukrainian, and Georgian music, song and dance. GLC. Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets £7.50, £5.50 & £4 avail from Royal Festival Hall, Box Office. Tel 928 3191 or CC 928 8800 and usual agents.

GARRICK S. CC 01-836 4601. Evgs 8. Wed. Mat. 3.0, Sat 5.0 & 8.0. 14th HYSTERICAL YEAR. LONGEST RUNNING COMEDY IN THE WORLD NO SEX, PLEASE — WE'RE BRITISH 2 HOURS OF NON-STOP LAUGHTER Directed by Allan Davis CC 379 6433. Group Sales 930 6123. OVER 5,500 FANTASTIC PERFS No perf. Dec. 24 & 25 No Matinee, Dec. 26. Dec. 27 perfs. 5.00 & 8.00.

GLOBE. CC 437 1592. Andrew Lloyd Webber presents the COMEDY OF THE YEAR Society of West End Theatre Award DAISY PULLS IT OFF By Denise Deegan Directed by David Gilmore "ABSOLUTELY SPIFFING." D. Tel. "FULL MARKS FOR DAISY." Std. "A gold star to Daisy for a delightful show." Daily Mail. Evgs. 8.0, Mats. Wed. 3.0, Sat. 4.0. Group Sales 930 6123 "THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE HOOT & A SCREAM." Sunday Times. SECOND GREAT YEAR NB: No perf. Dec. 24/25. Extra mat. Thurs., Dec 27 at 3.0.

GREENWICH THEATRE. 01-858 7755. Evgs 7.45. Mats Sat. 2.30 (no perf. Dec 24, 25). Extra Mat. Dec. 26, 4.0. CIDER WITH ROSIE, by LAURIE LEE. Adapted for the stage by JAMES ROOSE-EVANS.

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE. 722 9301 Evgs. 8.0, Sat. Mat. 4.30 & 8.15. No perf. Dec. 24, 25. Extra mat. Dec. 27 at 3.0. KISSING GOD. Devised & Dir by Phil Young. Suitable for Adults only.

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL 930 9832. Group Sales 930 6123. MAGGIE SMITH JOAN PLOWRIGHT & MICHAEL JAYSTON in THE CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE PRODUCTION OF THE WAY OF THE WORLD Directed by William Gaskill "Maggie Smith returns to our stage in glory." F. Times. "The most enthralling achievement was that of Joan Plowright." Std. "William Gaskill's superb production." Punch Evgs. 7.30. Mats. Wed. 2.30. Sat. 3.0. No perf. Dec 24 & 25 Xmas week, Mats Thurs. 2.30. Sat. 3.0. FOR A LIMITED SEASON.

HER MAJESTY'S 01-930 6606. CC 01-930 4025. Group Sales 930 6123. WEST SIDE STORY "THE BEST MUSICAL EVER WRITTEN," City Limits. "FINGER CLICKING GOOD." Std. "EXPLOSIVE PRODUCTION." S. Times. Mon-Fri. Evgs. 7.30, Sat. 4.45 & 8.0. Mat. Wed. 2.30. All perfs. to May 1985 now on sale. Open Xmas Eve.

KING'S HEAD. 226 1916. Ends Ton't. Dnr. 7. Show 8 pm. MOLLY PARKIN: ONE WOMAN SHOW.

LONDON PALLADIUM 01-437 7373. Evenings 7.30. Mats Wed & Sat 2.45. MATINEE TODAY 2.45 SEATS AVAILABLE AT DOORS LONDON'S GREATEST STAR-STUDDED SPECTACULAR MUSICAL TOMMY STEELE in SINGIN' IN THE RAIN with ROY CASTLE "TOMMY STEELE'S MERE PRESENCE ON THE STAGE LIGHTS UP THE ENTIRE THEATRE. S. Times. EXCLUSIVE CHRISTMAS Tel No. 01-437 8891 Open 24 hrs a day including Sundays and throughout the Xmas holiday NOTE NO PERFS DEC 24/25. EXTRA MAT. DEC. 27 at 2.45 BOOKING OPEN NOW FOR ALL PERFORMANCES TO JUNE OF NEXT YEAR Credit Cards 01-437 2055/734 8961 Night/Sunday Ansafone 01-437 6852

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH. S CC 741 2311. THEATRE CLOSED DEC.25 Ton't. 7.30. Mon. 2.30 & 6.0. Wed., Thur., Fri. 2.30 & 7.30. The Super Soul Musical THE WIZ "IT'S A RIGHT-ON 'GET ON DOWN' HOT GOSPELLING MUSICAL BONANZA." F.T. "Looks and sounds stunning." T. Tms. LYRIC STUDIO: Evgs. 8.0 PFEIFFER'S AMERICA.

LYRIC, Shaftesbury Ave. 437 3686. CC 434 1050. 434 1550. 741 9999. Grp. sales 930 6123. Evgs. 8.0. Sat. 5.30 & 8.30. Thurs Mat. 3.0. No performance Dec. 24 & 25 THEATRE OF COMEDY COMPANY DINSDALE LANDEN GEMMA CRAVEN NEIL PEARSON, DAVID JOHN JOHN CHANNELL MILLS and PATRICK O'CONNELL LOOT by JOE ORTON Directed by JONATHAN LYNN "I laughed until the tears ran down my face." F.T.

LYTTELTON. 928 2252 CC 928 5933 'S' (National Theatre's proscenium stage). Today 2.30 (low price mat.) & 7.45, Dec. 26, 7.45, then Dec. 27 to Jan. 1 & Jan. 17 to 24 the triple award-winning WILD HONEY by Chekhov, version by Michael Frayn. (The building will be closed Dec. 24/25.)

MAYFAIR. 01-629 3037. Until Jan 5. twice Daily, 2.0 & 4.0. Weds. & Sats. 10.30, 2.0 & 4.0 SOOTY'S CHRISTMAS SHOW

MAYFAIR. S CC 629 3036. THE BUSINESS OF MURDER CAST HOLIDAY UNTIL DEC. 26

MERMAID THEATRE 01-236 5568. CC 01-741 9999 (best from any Keith Prowse, no booking fee. Group Sales 01-930 6123. Evgs. 7.30. Thur & Sat. Mats. 3.0 No perf. Dec. 24 & 25. LOU HIRSCH CLIVE MANTLE and SUSAN PENHALIGON in OF MICE AND MEN STEINBECK'S timeless masterpiece

NATIONAL THEATRE, SOUTH BANK. The building will be closed Dec. 24-25. NATIONAL THEATRE COMPANY See SEPARATE ENTRIES UNDER OLIVIER/LYTTELTON/COTTESLOE. Excellent cheap seats day of perf. all three theatres from 10 am. Free Xmas foyer entertainment of all kinds daily. RESTAURANT (928 2033) CHEAP EASY CAR PARK.

NEW LONDON. Drury Lane WC2. 01-405 0072 or CC 01-404 4079. Evgs. 7.45. Tue. & Sat. 3.0 & 7.45. THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER T. S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING MUSICAL CATS Group Bookings 01-405 1567 or 01-930 6123 Apply daily to Box Office for returns. LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION. PLEASE BE PROMPT. Bars open 6 45 pm New Booking to June 1, 1985. Alternative CC Bookings 379 6131. Postal applications now being accepted for June 3–Aug. 31, 1985. THE LONGER YOU WAIT THE LONGER YOU'LL WAIT. NO PERFS. DEC 24/25 MATS DEC. 27/28/29. JAN. 2 at 3 pm. NO MAT. JAN. 1.

OLD VIC. 928 7616 CC 261 1821. LAST 2 PERFS. Today 4 0 & 7.45. GLENDA JACKSON ROBERT EDDISON GEORGINA HALE GERARD MURPHY JOYCE REDMAN TIM WOODWARD in PHEDRA Translated by ROBERT DAVID MACDONALD Directed and designed by PHILIP PROWSE "A TRULY OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION." F.T. "GLENDA JACKSON WONDERFULLY IMPRESSIVE." D. Tel. MUST END TONIGHT ! ! !

OLD VIC. 928 7616. CC 261 1821. Previews from December 26. ROY DOTRICE in GREAT EXPECTATIONS adapted and directed by PETER COE BOXING DAY BONANZA! MATINEE ALL SEATS £2.50 EVENING ALL SEATS £5.00

OLIVIER. 928 2252 CC 928 5933 'S' (National Theatre's open stage). Today 2.00 (low price mat.) & 7.15, Dec. 26 at 7.15, then Dec. 31 to Jan 2 A LITTLE HOTEL ON THE SIDE. Feydeau's farce translated by John Mortimer. (The building will be closed Dec. 24/25).

PICCADILLY. 437 4506. CC 379 6565, 379 6433. 741 9999. Group Sales 930 6123. 836 3962. Evgs. 8.0. Fri. & Sat. 6.0 & 8.45 Paul Jones Kiki Dee Brian Protheroe Gary Holton Carlene Carter Julian Littman PUMP BOYS AND DINETTES "IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO HAVE A GOOD TIME" BBC. "Non-stop action. It's just one heck of a lot of fun." D. Mirror HOT NEW MUSICAL SPECIAL OFFER FOR 6.00 PERF. FRIDAY. Present this at Box Office on Friday and get 2 tickets for the price of 1! (subject to avail). Dec. 26, 27, 28 at 4.0 & 8.0 No perf. Dec. 24 & 25.

PRINCE EDWARD. Tel. 01-437 6877 S. Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber's EVITA THE GIANT OF MUSICALS Directed by Hal Prince. Evgs. 8.0. Mats. Thurs. & Sat. at 3.0. CC Hotline 439 8499. 379 6433. 631 1101. 741 9999. Group Sales 930 6123. Extra Mat. Dec. 28 at 3.0.

PALACE THEATRE. 437 6834. CC 437 8327/379 6131. Group Sales Box Office 930 6123. The most Award Winning Musical of 1984 GALINA PANOVA HONOR BLACKMAN JOHN BENNETT TIM FLAVIN in RODGERS & HART'S ON YOUR TOES with SIOBHAN McCARTHY and NICHOLAS JOHNSON On Wednesday evening & Saturday Matinee the leading role will be played by DOREEN WELLS "'ON YOUR TOES' contains more joy than anything else on the London stage" Guardian. "One of the biggest theatrical firecrackers in London." Sunday Times. "SHEER BLISS" Daily Telegraph. Evgs. 7.45. Mat. Thur. & Sat. 2.30. NB: No perf. Dec. 24/25. Extra Mat. Wed., Dec 26 at 2.30. Pre-theatre Buffet from 6.45 p.m.

PHOENIX THEATRE. 240 9661 cc 836 2294/379 6433. Grp Sales 930 6123. Mon.-Thur. 7.45. Fri.-Sat. 5 30 & 8.30. GRIFF RHYS JONES GWEN TAYLOR in TRUMPETS AND RASPBERRIES A new Comedy by DARIO FO. "INSPIRED nonsense." F. Times. "INSPIRED invention." D. Mail. "INSPIRED fun." Standard. "INSPIRED clowning." S. Tel. "VENGEFULLY ELEGANT." S. Times. No Perfs. Dec. 24/25.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE 01-930 8681/2. CC Hotline 01-930 0844/5/6. Group Sales 930 6123 RUSS ABBOT SHEILA WHITE in LITTLE ME A Musical Comedy "AMONG THE GREAT BLOCKBUSTING MUSICALS OF OUR TIME . . . A GLORIOUS SPOOF." D. Mail. "THE FUNNIEST MUSICAL NEW YORK EVER SENT US . . . EXUBERANT SCORE, SPANKING PRECISION OF MR FOSSE'S DANCE STYLE." D. Tel "POSITIVELY SPARKLES." S. Exp. "DELIGHTFUL BUBBLING ENTERTAINMENT." Scotsman. "SPLENDID." D Mirror Evgs. 7.30. Mats Thurs. & Sats. 3.0. Special rate for OAP / Students / Children (at certain performances). Reduced price Thurs. mats. Extra mat. Dec. 26 at 3.0.

QUEENS THEATRE 01-734 1166. 01-734 0261. 01-734 0120. 01-439 3849. 01 439 4031 Group Sales 01-930 6123 "ONE OF THE MOST INTELLIGENTLY ENTERTAINING EVENINGS TO BE FOUND IN THE WEST END" Standard PAUL EDDINGTON "A DELIRIOUSLY FUNNY PORTRAIT" The Times in Alan Bennett's Classic Comedy 40 YEARS ON Directed by Patrick Garland "THE QUEENS THEATRE WILL NOT HAVE SEEN THE LAST OF THIS MOST GLORIOUSLY FUNNY PLAY FOR MANY A LONG DAY." D. Mail. "ONE OF THE BEST AND MOST ORIGINAL ENGLISH COMEDIES IN THE LAST FIFTY YEARS." Sun Times. Evgs. 7.50 Mats Wed. 3 0, Sats 5.0 & 8.15. Closed Xmas Eve. Extra perf. Thurs. Dec. 27 at 3.0 pm.

RAYMOND REVUEBAR. CC 734 1593. Mon.-Sat. 7 p.m., 9 p.m., 11 p.m. Paul Raymond presents THE FESTIVAL OF EROTICA. Now! More new acts, more new thrills, more new sensations. The world's centre of erotic entertainment. 27th Great Year.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE. S CC 730 1745 EDWARD BOND SEASON! Now booking until Feb 9 SAVED at 8 p.m. THE POPE'S WEDDING, in rep. from Jan. 4. BOOK NOW. No Perf. Dec. 24, 25, 26.

SADLER'S WELLS 278 8916 Jan. 15-Feb. 9. Booking now THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS A New Musical Starring TERRY SCOTT: "Toad" PATRICK CARGILL: "Ratty" DONALD HEWLETT: "Badger" MELVYN HAYES: "Mole"

SAVOY. Box Office 01-836 8888. CC 01-379 6219, 836 0479. Evgs. 7.45. Mat. Wed. 3.0. Saturday 5.0 & 8.30. Closed Christmas Eve. Extra Perf. Thur., Dec. 27. at 3 0 THE AWARD-WINNING WEST-END AND BROADWAY COMEDY HIT MICHAEL MEDWIN JOSEPHINE TEWSON HUGH PADDICK ROLAND CURRAM DILYS WATLING PHILIP BIRD NOISES OFF Directed by MICHAEL BLAKEMORE "After two years, Michael Frayn's comedy is still wildly funny." Tms. OVER 1,000 PERFORMANCES

SHAFTESBURY. 379 5399. CC 741 9999 Grp. Sales 930 6123. Evgs. 8.0, Sat. 5.30 & 8.30. Wed. Mat. 3.0. No Perf. Dec. 24, 25. Dec. 26 at 3.0 & 8.0 THEATRE OF COMEDY COMPANY DONALD SINDEN "A Grand Master" Std. MICHAEL WILLIAMS "Truly hilarious" Std. BARBARA MURRAY and LIONEL JEFFRIES in TWO INTO ONE Written and directed by RAY COONEY "The most hilarious production yet mounted by Mr. Cooney's Theatre of Comedy." F.T. "CLASSIC . . . FIRST RATE FARCE." Gdn.

ST MARTIN'S. 836 1443. Special CC No. 01-379 6433. Evgs 8.0. Tues. 2.45, Sats 5 0 & 8 0. No perf. Dec. 25. Dec. 26 perfs 5.0 & 8.0 AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP 33rd Year SORRY, no reduced prices from any source, but seats bkble. from £3.50.

STRAND WC2. 01-836 2660/4143/5190. Evgs. 7.30. Wed. 2.30. Sats. 5.0 and 8.30. Closed Xmas Eve. Extra perf. Dec 27. 2.30. MICHAEL PENNINGTON LUCY GUTTERIDGE in the 3rd year of TOM STOPPARD'S THE REAL THING "I BELIEVE THAT 'THE REAL THING' WILL COME TO BE SEEN AS ONE OF THE BEST ENGLISH PLAYS OF THIS CENTURY" J. PETER, S. Times. Directed by PETER WOOD.

TRICYCLE. 328 8626. Bob Carlton's RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET. Evgs. 8. Mats: Sats. & Dec. 27 & 28 at 4. Theatre Closed Dec 24-26.

VAUDEVILLE 01-836 9987/836 5645. Evgs. 7.45. Wed. 2.30. Sat. 5.0 & 8.30 Closed Christmas Eve. Extra Perf. Thur., Dec 27, at 2.30. PLAY OF THE YEAR LAURENCE OLIVIER AWARD POLLY ADAMS CLIVE FRANCIS JAN WATERS GLYN GRAIN MICHAEL FRAYN'S New Play BENEFACTORS Directed by MICHAEL BLAKEMORE "BEST NEW PLAY IN TOWN" Punch.

VICTORIA PALACE. 01-834 1317. Evgs 7 30. Mats. Wed & Sats. 2.45. Prevs. March 2-13 OPENS MARCH 14 MICHAEL CRAWFORD in BARNUM BOX OFFICE OPEN 9 am-9 pm

WESTMINSTER. Palace St., W1. 01-834 0283/4 01-741 9999. 01-379 6433. 01-631 1101 THE LION, THE WITCH & THE WARDROBE Twice daily. Tickets from £3 50 Dec. 24 perf 2.30 only. No perf. Dec 25.

WYNDHAM'S. 836 3028 CC 379 6565. 379 6433. Grps 930 6123. 836 3962. Evgs 8.0. Wed. Mats. 3.0. Sats. 5.0 and 8 15. SUE TOWNSEND'S THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE AGED 13¾ Music and Lyrics by KEN HOWARD & ALAN BLAIKLEY No perf Dec. 24 & 25 Extra Mat. Dec. 27 at 3.0

YOUNG VIC. 928 6363. Until Jan. 19 JACK AND THE BEANSTALK & THE WILD WILD WEST Days & Evgs "The funniest, perkiest, most inventive show in town" City Limits "The children lapped it up." & D Tel.

OPERA AND BALLET

London

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE COVENT GARDEN. Resv: 01-240 1066/1911. Access, Visa, Diners Club. S Standby info. 01-836 6903. 65 amphi seats avail. for all perfs. from 10 am on the day. Tickets: Opera £8-£34, Ballet £1-£20. Theatre Closed Mon. & Tue.
THE ROYAL BALLET Today 1.30, Wed. 2.0, Thur. 2.30 & 7.30, Fri. 7.30 The Nutcracker–Ballet Casting info. 01-240 9815.
THE ROYAL OPERA Tont. 7.0, Wed. 1.30 Die Fledermaus.

SADLER'S WELLS. 278 8916 Until Jan. 5 SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET Today, Wed. 2.30 & 7.30. Thur. 7.30 Coppélia. Theatre closed Dec. 24 & 25. 278 6855 for Stagecoach (theatre bus) & Winter prog. Grp. Sales 930 6123.

COLISEUM S 836 3161 CC 240 5258. ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Tont. 7.0 MAZEPPA. Fri. 7.0 last perf. COSI FAN TUTTE. Also booking: Tosca, Rigoletto, Tristan and Isolde, Anna Karenina. CC Ticketmaster 01-379 6212. (The building will be closed Dec 24/25/26/Jan. 1).

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL Box Office. 01-928 3191. CC 01-928 8800.
LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET From Wed. to Jan. 16. Evgs. 7.30. Mats. 3.00. THE NUTCRACKER

ART GALLERIES & EXHIBITIONS

BANKSIDE GALLERY CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION. Wide variety of Watercolours, Prints and Drawings FOR SALE by Members of the Royal Watercolour Society and The Royal Society of Painter-Etchers and Engravers. Pictures can be taken away at time of purchase. Dec 12-23, Mon-Sat. 10-5, Sun 12-5. Dec 17-20 extended opening until 7 pm. 48 Hopton Street, Blackfriars, London SE1. Tel: 01-928 7521.

HAYWARD GALLERY (Arts Council). South Bank, London SE1. HENRI MATISSE: Sculptures & Drawings. Closes Jan. 6. Mon.-Wed. 10-8, Thurs.-Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-6. Adm £2, £1 concessionary rate and all day Mon., Tues. and Wed., 6-8. Recorded info. 01-261 0127. Closed Dec. 24, 25, 26 and Jan. 1.

VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM, S. Kensington. DISCOVERY OF THE LAKE DISTRICT. Adm. free. JOHN FRENCH FASHION PHOTOGRAPHER. Adm. £1. Library closed until further notice. Wkdys. 10-5 30, Suns. 2 30-5 30. Closed Fridays & Dec. 24-26 inc. & Jan 1. Recorded info. 01-581 4894.

BETHNAL GREEN MUSEUM OF CHILDHOOD, Cambridge Heath Road, E2. Tel 01-980 2415. SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS & THE NUTCRACKER PRINCE. Until Jan. 20. Adm. free. Wkdys. 10-6, Suns. 2 30-6. Closed Fridays and Dec. 24-26 inc. & Jan. 1.

BOOTH HOUSE GALLERY, Holmfirth. Christmas Exhibition — "Ceramics from Scotland." A touring exhibition of work by members of the Scottish Potters Association. Last weekend, ends tomorrow. Open daily 2 pm to 5 pm. 0484 685270.

NATIONAL GALLERY, Trafalgar Sq. London WC2. CHRISTMAS EVENTS: Special children's exhibition, quiz and talks. Tel. 01-839 3321 for details. (Recorded info. 01-839 3526). Wkdys. 10-6, Suns. 2-6. Adm. free. Closed Dec. 24, 25, 26 and Jan. 1.

BRITISH LIBRARY / BRITISH MUSEUM, Great Russell Street, WC1. ANGLO-SAXON ART 966-1066. Weekdays 10-5, Sunday 2.30-6. Admission £2. Recorded info. 01-580 1788. Closed Dec. 24, 25, 26 and Jan. 1.

TATE GALLERY, Millbank, SW1. GEORGE STUBBS. Until Jan 6. Adm. £2. Wkdys 10-5.50. (Tues 3.30-7.30 £1). Suns. 2-5.50. Recorded info. 01-821 7128. Closed Dec 24, 25, 26; and Jan. 1.

SERPENTINE GALLERY (ARTS COUNCIL), Kensington Gardens, W2. LANDSCAPE, MEMORY AND DESIRE. Until Jan. 20. Recorded info. 01-723 9072 Free. Daily 10-4.

FESTIVE FOCUS

CHESTER GATEWAY THEATRE
Box Office (0244) 40393
Until Saturday, January 19
FLYING TORTOISE presents The Gateway's sparkling new musical show for the family
RAINBOW MAN written and directed by John Cooper.
Children £2 all performances. Adults £2.75, £4, concessions available.
Contact Box Office for full details.

QUEENS THEATRE
Billet Lane, Hornchurch, Essex. Box Office (04024) 43333.
GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS by John Morley: "King of Pantomime."
Spectacular circus setting, ringside seats only £2.10
Book now!

NORTHERN BALLET THEATRE Artistic Director, Robert de Warren "DANCIN' 85" 2nd-15th January. Northern Ballet Theatre presents a New Year's Extravaganza of Dance for Everyone. Performances of the classics, workshops, films, performance auctions, open day. ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE OF MUSIC, Oxford Road, Manchester. Box Office 061-273 4504. Credit Cards 061-273 5534.

CINEMAS

London

ACADEMY 1. 437 2981. The Tavianis' KAOS (15) Sep. perfs.: Weekdays 2 30 7 25 Suns. 3 40, 7 25 Cinema closed Dec. 24-26.

ACADEMY 2. 437 5129 Satyajit Ray's THE HOME AND THE WORLD (U) Daily at 5 10, 5 45, 8 25. Cinema closed Dec. 24-26.

ACADEMY 3. 437 8819 Marcel Carne's LES ENFANTS DU PARADIS (PG). Films 4 10 & 7 30. Cinema closed Dec. 24-26.

BARBICAN CINEMA 628 8795. Student reductions on all prfs TODAY Children's Cinema Club (Instant Membership) 11 00/2 30 Christmas Party & Cartoons. TON'T. 6.00/8 00 GHOSTBUSTERS (PG). Barbican Centre Closed Dec. 24 & 25.

CAMDEN PLAZA. 485 2443 (opp tube Camden Town) ERIC ROHMER'S FULL MOON IN PARIS (15) Film at 2 05, 4 15, 6 30, 8 50. CLOSED DEC. 24 & 25.

CHELSEA CINEMA. 351 3742 Kings Road SW3 (Nearest Tube Sloane Sq) ERIC ROHMER'S FULL MOON IN PARIS (15) Film at 2 05, 4 15, 6 30, 8 50 Advance booking for last perfs only CLOSED DEC. 24 & 25.

CIC CINEMAS PROGRAMME INQUIRIES 200 0200 Perfs marked * are bookable at the box office open daily 11 a m to 7 p m (Sun 1 p m to 7 p m) Telephone booking service available for Last Evening Performance only on 437 1234 Jungle Book Hotline 930 0144 Empire 2 and all Plazas are No Smoking Theatres.

EMPIRE 1. Leicester Square. DUNE (PG) in 70mm DOLBY STEREO Sep. Progs Daily 12 30, 3 0, 5 45, 8 30*. Late show every night 11 15 p m

EMPIRE 2. Leicester Square. INDIANA JONES AND THE TEMPLE OF DOOM (PG) in DOLBY STEREO Sep. Progs Daily 12 45 (not Sun.), 3.15, 5 45, 8 30*. Late Show Sat. 11 15 p.m.

PLAZA 1. Piccadilly Circus. Walt Disney's JUNGLE BOOK (U) & MICKEY'S CHRISTMAS CAROL (U) Sep. Progs. Daily 1 30*, 4.0* 6.25*, 8 45*. Extra Show 11.15 a.m. (Not Sun.). Late Show Fri. & Sat. 11 15 p.m.

PLAZA 2. 1984 (15) Sep. Progs. Daily 1 0, 3.30, 6.0, 8.30*. Late Show Fri & Sat 11 15 p.m.

PLAZA 3. A CHRISTMAS STORY (PG) Sep. Progs. Daily 2.0, 4.15, 6.30, 8 45*. Late Show Fri. & Sat. 11 15 p.m.

PLAZA 4. TOP SECRET (15) Cont. Progs. Daily 1.20, 5 20, 9.20 TRADING PLACES (15) Cont. Progs. Daily 3 0, 7.0 Late Show Fri. & Sat. Top Secret only 11 15 p.m.

SEATS £2 ON MONDAYS AND ALL WEEKDAY AFTERNOONS.

CURZON. Curzon St. W1. 01-499 3737. Christopher Reeve, Vanessa Redgrave in The Merchant Ivory Production of THE BOSTONIANS (PG). "Superbly made and acted." D. Tel. Film at 1.15 (not Sun.), 3 30, 6.0 & 8.40. Closed Dec. 24/25.

ELECTRIC SCREEN 229 3694 TALKING HEADS in STOP MAKING SENSE (U) in Dolby Stereo 3.25, 5.15, 7 15, 9 15, 11.15. Tickets bookable.

GATE BLOOMSBURY 1 and 2 837 8402 / 1177. Russell Sq. Tube. 1 1984 (15). 2 30, 4.40, 6 50, 9.0. 2 Repertory Cinema THE DECAMERON (18). 2.40, 9.0 ARABIAN NIGHTS (18), 6.40 CANTERBURY TALES (18), 4.40. Tomorrow. 1900 Parts 1 & 2 (18) 6.30. NCP parking 30p below cinema any time Sat. & Sun., Mon. to Fri. AFTER 6 p.m. Licd bar. Access and Visa cards accepted.

GATE, NOTTING HILL. 221 0220/727 5750. Ettore Scola's LE BAL (PG). 4 40, 6.50, 9 0. Late Show 11.15 pm CANTERBURY TALES (18), DECAMERON (18).

LEICESTER SQUARE THEATRE (930 5252). THE LAST STARFIGHTER (PG). Sep. progs. Daily 1.0, 3 35, 6.10, 8.50. Late Night show Fri & Sat 11.45 pm. Advance Booking for all performances. Telephone bookings with Access and Visa welcome.

LUMIERE CINEMA. 836 0691. St Martins Lane. (Nearest Tube Leicester Sq.). Ettore Scola's LE BAL (PG) Film at 1.45, 4.0, 6.20, 8.45. Advance Booking for 6.20 & 8.45 perfs only. CLOSED DEC. 24 & 25.

MINEMA KNIGHTSBRIDGE. 235 4225. Closed for refurbishment, re-open Jan. 10 with LES CHIENS (15).

NATIONAL FILM THEATRE. 928 3232 NFT1: 2.0, 8.45 BLAZING SADDLES (USA 1973). NFT1: 4.15 HAROLD AND MAUDE (USA 1971). NFT1: 6.30 GREGORY'S GIRL (U) (GB 1980). NFT2: 3.45 THE TWELVE TASKS OF ASTERIX (U) (France 1975). (Tickets £1.20 children, £2.40 adults). NFT2: 6.0 GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER? (USA 1967). NFT2: 8 15 THE MADWOMAN OF CHAILLOT (GB 1969).

ODEON HAYMARKET (930 2738). A PRIVATE FUNCTION (15). Sep. progs. Dly. 2 15, 6.15, 8.45. Late Night Show Fri. & Sat. 11.15 pm. All seats bookable in advance. Access and Visa telephone bookings welcome "The comedy of the year." Daily Mail.

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (930 6111). Info. 930 4250/4259 GHOSTBUSTERS (PG) In 70mm. Sep progs Doors open daily 1.45, 4.55, 8 0. Late shows Fris & Sats. Doors 11 15 p m. 8.0 Perf and Late Shows bookable Access and Visa phone bookings welcome. Credit Hot Line 839 1929 24-hour Service. £2.0 seats Monday all perfs.

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (723 2011). CARAVAN OF COURAGE (U). Sep. progs. Doors open dly 1 45, 4 45, 7 45. Reduced prices for under 16s.

PHOENIX, East Finchley. 883 2233. THE LAST STARFIGHTER (PG). Sep perfs at 2.30 (not Sun), 5 15, 8.15 Fri'r at 11 pm BLADE RUNNER (15) + BODY HEAT (18). Cinema closed Dec. 24-26

PRINCE CHARLES. Leic. Sq. 437 8181 THE WOMAN IN RED (15). Dolby Stereo Progs. 2.30, 4.15, 6.25, 8.35 Late show Fri. & Sat. 11.15. All seats £2.50 Monday. Lic Bar.

SCREEN ON Baker Street. 935 2772. Helen Mirren — Best Actress Standard Award. HURRY. LAST WEEKS. 1. CAL (15) 2.20, 4.30, 6.45, 9.0. Late show 11.15 1941 (15). 2. PARIS TEXAS (15) 2.30, 5 30, 8 30, 11 30. Lic bar. Tickets bookable.

SCREEN ON THE HILL. 435 3366. HURRY. LAST WEEKS. METROPOLIS (PG). in Dolby Stereo. 3.25, 5.15, 7 15, 9.15. Lic bar. Seats bookable. Late show 11.15. SPINAL TAP (15) ERASERHEAD (18)

SCREEN ON ISLINGTON GREEN. 226 3520. THE KILLING FIELDS (15), in Dolby Stereo. 2.30, 5 15, 8.15, 11.15. Tickets bookable.

CONCERTS

Regional

TONIGHT AT 7.30
Royal Northern College of Music
MANCHESTER CAMERATA
Nicholas Kraemer conductor
Michael Laird trumpet
Handel .....Concerto Grosso op 3 no 1
Corelli ....Christmas Concerto
Telemann ..Trumpet Concerto in D
Telemann ..Water Music
Bach ....Suite No 3 in D
Tickets: £2-£5.50. R.N.C.M. Box Office 061-273 4504 Mon.-Sat. 11-6. CAMERATA CLUB. After the concert, come along to the Camerata Club and enjoy a choice of food, bar facilities and a chance to meet the artists.

THEATRES

Regional

BIRMINGHAM REPERTORY STUDIO THEATRE in association with Monstrous Regiment presents the premiere of ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES — A LOVE STORY by Bryony Lavery. Nov. 22 to Dec. 22, 1984. Box office 021-236 4455.

CRUCIBLE THEATRE SHEFFIELD. 79922 Dec. 20-Feb 2 Mon.-Sat. 2 30 & 7 pm. Jan 7, 7 pm only. Jan. 16 10 30 am & 7 pm. ALADDIN — A FANTASTIC FAMILY FUN-PACKED PANTO starring Mike Newman & Tracie Bennett Studio Theatre, Dec. 31 Jan 26 Tues-Sat 7 45 pm JOKERS III by Paul Allen & Rony Robinson SOUTH YORKSHIRE'S OWN SOAP OPERA IS BACK "IT HAD THE AUDIENCE CRYING WITH LAUGHTER." Robin Hallam.

HULL. Hull Truck Spring Street Theatre 0482 25638 Hull Truck Theatre Company in A CHRISTMAS CAROL by Charles Dickens. Adapted and directed by John Godber Dec. 11 to Jan. 12.

LEEDS PLAYHOUSE. Calverley St. (0532) 442111 (CC) Until Jan. 19. CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY. Booking fast. Extra perfs. Mon. Jan 7 & 14, 7 pm SUBSCRIBE NOW FOR SPRING SEASON — See 5 plays for £11 00! Telephone for details.

LIVERPOOL EVERYMAN. 051-709 4776. To Jan 5 Xmas musical FROM A JACK TO A KING.

PALACE THEATRE
OXFORD ST., MANCHESTER
Box Office Open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Today and Monday at 4 p.m. & 7 30 p.m.
ALADDIN
The all-star pantomime for the whole family starring Su Pollard Matthew Kelly, Derek Griffiths Anneka Rice, Edmund Hockridge Rob Carniers, Ted Moult & Tommy Trinder
Tickets £3.50 to £7 50 still avail. with half-price for children and huge concessions for groups.
Until January 26

The New Vic Theatre presents
UNDER MILK WOOD
BY DYLAN THOMAS
Directed by Michael Bogdanov
"The freshness of the imagery still holds up 30 years after we chuckled at those comic, verbal tableaux." The Guardian.
Tickets £2.50 to £6 50.
January 28 to February 2

BALLET RAMBERT
Two exciting progs. with a world premiere of a new ballet by American Choreographer Dan Wagoner Repertoire also incls. Wildlife (Alston) Voices and Light Footsteps (Alston), Death of the Maiden (North) Sergeant Early's Dream (Bruce), Entre dos Aguas (North).
"quite marvellous" — Punch.
"a lovely fluency of movement" —Sunday Times.
Tickets £3 50 to £7 50.
February 5 to 9

CHARLTON HESTON and all-star cast in
THE CAINE MUTINY COURT-MARTIAL
based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Herman Wouk.
Tickets £4.50 to £11.50
February 18-23

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT
Tickets from £2 50
February 25 to March 9

SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN BROTHERS
The blockbuster MGM musical now on stage. "a glorious romp . . . hand-clapping effervescent energy . . . dazzling dancing . . . colourful and breathtaking production."
Tickets from £3.50 with huge concessions for groups.
March 12 to April 6

BOX OFFICE 061-236 9922
CREDIT CARDS 061-236 8012
GROUP BKGS. 061-236 9926

THE OPERA HOUSE MANCHESTER
COMING SHORTLY
THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE
The swashbuckling smash-hit musical direct from New York and London.
"the sheer energy and joy of this production are unbeatable." Punch.
"Pirates take the West End by Storm" The Standard.
Opening on March 6 for a Season with reduced price previews on March 2, 4 and 5.
Box Office Now Open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Tickets from £4 50.
BOX OFFICE 061-831 7766
CREDIT CARDS 061-831 7733
GROUP BKGS. 061-831 7400

REX STAGE, WILMSLOW Dec. 17 to Jan 5 CHRISTMAS SEASON after 14 months in London "SNOOPY THE MUSICAL" "amusing, lively, colourful" Daily Mail. "Delightful" Sunday Express. "irresistible" ITV Evenings 7.30 (Dec. 17 to Jan. 5). Matinees 2.30 (Dec. 18, 22 & daily Dec. 26 to Jan 5) £3 & £5. Dec. 17 to Dec. 22 £5 & £4 Dec. 26 to Jan. 5. Children (under 16) reduced by £1 (no performances Sundays & Dec. 24 & 25). BOX OFFICE 10 am to 7 pm Mon. to Sat Wilmslow 522266 and 530179

ROYAL EXCHANGE THEATRE Today at 4 0 & 8 0 pm THE ADMIRABLE CRICHTON Tickets from £2
NO PERFORMANCE ON XMAS EVE AND XMAS DAY. BOXING DAY 8 0 pm ONLY
Opens January 29. Previews from January 24 CLASS K World premiere of a new musical by Trevor Peacock.
Sunday, Dec. 30 at 3 30 pm MANCHESTER CAMERATA "The Messiah" — from Scratch! Tckts. £3.50, Senior Citizens, Students & Unemployed £2
BOX OFFICE. 061-833 9833 CREDIT CARDS 061-832 7991 GROUP BKGS. 061-833 0483

STOKE-ON-TRENT VICTORIA. Tel (0782) 615962. Tonight RUMPELSTILTSKIN by Peter Terson.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0789) 295623 ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in HAMLET. Today 1.30 ". . . A Hamlet that sears the memory." D Mail LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST Tonight, Wed 7.30 Thur. 1 30 ". . . a treat." The Times. No performances on December 24 and 25. For special meal/theatre deals tel 0789 67262.

HARROGATE THEATRE
Box Office (0423) 502116
Action-packed fun with
HANS ANDERSEN
A dazzling fairy-tale musical featuring some of the world's favourite family tunes!
Matinees almost every day
Big concessions for children every performance
Credit card bookings and 24-hour information (0423) 502116

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14 March – 6 April
The classic American drama
Long Day's Journey into Night
by Eugene O'Neill
11 April – 11 May
Three Sisters
by Anton Chekhov
The premiere of a new translation by Michael Frayn
16 May – 29 June
ADAM ANT in
Entertaining Mr. Sloane
The outrageous comedy by Joe Orton
9 July – 17 August
(previews from 4 July)
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MAURICE HANDFORD Conducts
TCHAIKOVSKY PATHETIQUE SYM
TIPPETT Con for Double String Orch
MOZART Oboe Concerto
Oboe RICHARD SIMPSON
Wed/Thu/Sun 9/10/13 Jan 7.30 (S)
JAMES LOUGHRAN Conducts a
BEETHOVEN EVENING
Please note change of programme
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The Prometheus Piano Con No 3
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RG
Raymond Gubbay presents
BARBICAN Sat. 29 Dec. at 3pm
NAPOLEON
Abel Gance's epic film – Accompanied by the WREN ORCHESTRA Conductor CARL DAVIS
Tickets from Box Office 01-638 8891/628 8795

Fill those empty theatre and cinema seats by advertising in this Section.
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TELEVISION

PROGRAMME GUIDE BY SANDY SMITHIES

SATURDAY

BBC-1

8 30 am The Perishers. 8 35 The Littlest Hobo. 9 0 Saturday Superstore. 12 12 pm Weather.

12 15 **GRANDSTAND.** Including: Football Focus (12 20); news (12 50); racing from Chepstow (12 55; 1 25; 2 0); world championship ski-ing (1 10); motor racing from Brands Hatch (1 40); rugby league (2 20); half-times (3 45); rallycross (3 55); final score (4 40).

5 5 **NEWS**; weather; sport; regional news.

5 20 **KEITH HARRIS CHRISTMAS SHOW.** Fun and games with vent Keith and his puppet chums, plus The Roly Polys and the tumbling Ding Bats.

5 55 **THE CIRCUS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS.** From the Roberts Brothers big top at Wembley, the annual spectacular in which circus folk compete for the business's own gold medals, for Single and Flying Trapeze, and for the top Circus Family. Norman Barrett is the ringmaster. Richard Skinner from Radio 1 the commentator.

6 45 **BREAKHEART PASS.** Alistair MacLean did the screenplay from his own novel for this fast-paced, exciting Western set aboard a train crossing the Rockies in the 1870s, with Charles Bronson as the mystery man tangling with gun runners and a diphtheria epidemic, plus Richard Crenna, Jill Ireland. Directed by Tom Gries in 1975. Ceefax sub-titles.

8 15 **DYNASTY:** Seizure. That's what poor Seesil had, of course: can it be that someone else is in line for a nasty turn (Joan Collins?). Ceefax sub-titles.

9 5 **WOGAN'S WOMEN.** Sexual chemistry students get another chance to see the Woggers technique in action, if only to learn how not to do it. Felicity Kendal, for some reason, joins the lad to marvel at the highlights of his interviews with the likes of Bo, Raquel, Sophia and Beryl.

10 0 **NEWS**; sport; weather.

10 15 **FILMS OF THE YEAR.** Barry Norman picks his best dozen, and invites John Hurt, Helen Mirren, Tom Conti to nominate their favourites of '84.

11 10 **THE BIG SLEEP.** Bogey and Bacall giving Wogan lessons in sexual chemistry, he as Philip Marlowe, she as sexy society client, in the classic Howard Hawks thriller, made in 1946 and now opening a season of All Time Great Movies. 1 0 Close.

Scotland: 10 15 pm Sportscene. 10 45 Films of the Year. 11 40 Film: The Big Sleep (as BBC1). 1 35 am Weather: close.

BBC-2

2 50 **THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA.** John Sturges' 1958 drama has a good try at filming Ernest Hemingway's award-winning novel, with most of the credit going to Spencer Tracy, superb as the Cuban fisherman facing a daily battle with the elements.

4 15 **IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE.** Frank Capra's charming comic fantasy, made in 1946 stars James Stewart as the small-town nice guy who's about to end it all because he thinks he's a failure; Henry Travers as the guardian angel sent to help him.

6 20 **SHAKESPEARE IN PERSPECTIVE.** Eleanor Bron offers her view of the latest Complete Works production, coming up later this evening — the comedy which she thinks depicts "one of the most romantic relationships in English literature." Emma and Mr Knightley, Amanda and Elyot are she says happy descendants of Beatrice and Benedick.

6 45 **NEWS**; sport; weather.

7 0 **THE FIRST NOELS:** Regional Carols. Sir Geraint Evans continues his musical history, investigating the wassailing tradition in different parts of the country.

7 15 **BORN IN THE USA.** In America they call him The Boss; both Reagan and Mondale have quoted him when pitching for the youth vote, and it's all of ten years since he was tagged "the rock and roll of the future." Whistle Test's profile of Bruce Springsteen includes footage of the rock star in one of his marathon live shows.

8 15 **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING,** by William Shakespeare. Robert Lindsay and Cherie Lunghi play the verbally-sparring lovers Benedick and Beatrice in the romantic comedy which is one of the last productions of the BBC's massive cycle. With Jon Finch as Don Pedro, Michael Elphick and Clive Dunn as the clowns, and Robert Reynolds and Katharine Levy as the other twosome, Claudio and Hero.

10 45 **ARENA SPECIAL:** Music Of The Other Americas. Contemporary musicians from Central and South America gather in Varadero, Cuba every November, for an international festival celebrating their kind of sound: last month, Arena went too.

12 0 **BLOOD FROM THE MUMMY'S TOMB.** A Hammer Horror season creaks open with Seth Holt's not-bad chiller, made in 1971, with Andrew Keir as the Prof unwisely digging up a nasty divinity, down Egypt way. 1 35 Close.

ITV London

6 25 am Good Morning Britain. 8 30 The Wide-Awake Club. 9 25 Disney at Christmas. 9 30 The Bells of Fraggle Rock. 10 0 The Saturday Starship. 11 20 Durrell and the Dodo.

12 15 **WORLD OF SPORT.** Including: World Cup Ski-ing — men's downhill from Italy (12 20); news (12 45); On The Ball (12 50); racing from Lingfield (1 15; 1 45; 2 15); World Professional Figure Skating Championships from Maryland (1 30; 2 0; 3 10); Celebrity Sixes — multi-sport contest between Ian Botham's cricket side and Lennie Bennett's showbiz team (2 30); half-time soccer (3 45); wrestling (4 0); results (4 45).

5 0 **NEWS**; sport; weather.

5 5 **BLOCKBUSTERS.** Bob Holness with the teenagers' quiz.

5 40 **THE GRUMBLEWEEDS RADIO SHOW.** Comedy in the Crazy Gang tradition from the Yorkshire quintet.

6 15 **CHRISTMAS PUNCHLINES.** Lennie Bennett hosts the last edition of the memory quiz, with June Whitfield and Bernard Manning partnering tonight's lucky contestants. Oracle sub-titles.

6 50 **RUSS ABBOT'S CHRISTMAS MADHOUSE.** Lunatic happenings with Russ and the Madhouse gang. Oracle sub-titles.

7 50 **3-2-1:** Pantomania. Roy Hudd, June Whitfield head the rent-a-celebrity crowd staging panto sketches and competing in the quiz, for charity. Oracle sub-titles.

8 50 **TARBY AND CHRISTMAS FRIENDS.** Including Millicent Martin, flying in from the States for the occasion, plus American comic David Brenner, and Gary Glitter.

9 45 **NEWS**; sport; weather.

10 0 **THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG IN PARADISE.** Kid Creole and the Coconuts are the stars of this lively new musical, with music and lyrics by August Darnell (aka Kid Creole), which has a serious message about racial tolerance blended in with the 12 songs and dances choreographed by Anthony Van Laast. Set on an imaginary Caribbean island ruled by a bigoted President (Oscar James) it also features the Three Degrees, Pauline Black and American movie actress Karen Black.

11 35 **BELLAMY:** The Axe Man Cometh.

12 20 **SCROOGE'S ROCK 'N' ROLL CHRISTMAS.** Humbug . . .

1 10 **NIGHT THOUGHTS** with Moshe Davis. Closedown.

Channel 4

1 5 **MAKING THE MOST OF . . .** Re-run leisure ideas from Therese Birch, with sub-titles.

1 30 **CHIPS COMIC.** Party fun for young "readers," including a report on how crisps are made.

2 0 **HOME AT SEVEN.** First of two films this afternoon to star Sir Ralph Richardson, this 1952 mystery tale was also Sir Ralph's only venture as director.

3 35 **THE HOLLY AND THE IVY.** Also made in 1952, this domestic drama casts Sir Ralph as a country parson spending a Christmas of reunion and revelations with his family, supported by Celia Johnson, Margaret Leighton, John Gregson.

5 5 **BROOKSIDE.** Omnibus edition of the Merseyside soaper.

6 0 **DANGER MAN:** The Traitor. Patrick McGoohan as John Drake, tracing a renegade agent to a mountain bungalow in Kashmir, as the vintage series continues.

6 30 **SEVEN DAYS.** What is the point in celebrating Christmas if you're not a Christian: Robert Kee and Ann Loades reflect on the survival of a religious festival. News Summary; weather.

7 0 **THIS IS ELVIS.** Made in 1981, this documentary biography uses dramatised reconstruction newsreel footage and clips from the King's films and TV shows to tell the story of the rock 'n roll legend's life and tragically short times.

9 0 **TWO TRACK MIND.** Sue Jones-Davies of The Raving Beauties takes a dual role in this musical drama which deploys the latest video trickery to tell of a day in the life of two women: harassed housewife Kay and recording star Karen. Or are they the same woman?

9 45 **DON QUIXOTE.** Mikhail Baryshnikov dances the lead role of Cervantes' itinerant hero in his acclaimed production for American Ballet Theatre.

11 20 **IAN BREAKWELL'S CHRISTMAS DIARY.** More quirky comments of the season.

11 30 **SKATEBOARD.** Allen Garfield leads a period piece of a movie comedy about a gambler under pressure from the Mob 1 20 Close.

1 50 pm What the Papers Say. 2 5 A Week in Politics. 2 45 Realm of Darkness. 3 45 The Wine Programme. 4 15 The British at War. 6 10 The Avengers. 7 10 Y Nadolig Hwnnw. 7 20 SuperTed. 7 30 Newyddion. 7 45 Sion a Sian. 8 15 Noson Lawen. 9 20 Y Maes Chwarae. 10 10 Film: State Secret. 12 5 Diwedd.

Regional variations (Saturday)

Anglia
6 25 As London.
9 25 BC's Prize Time.
11 35 pm The Sweeney.
12 35 am What Christmas Means to Me; close.

Central
6 25 As London.
9 25 The Star of Bethlehem.
9 30 As London.
11 35 pm Film: The Love Ban. 1972 sex comedy with Hywel Bennett, Nanette Newman, Milo O'Shea.
1 15 am Close.

Channel
6 25 As London.
11 15 Puffin's Pla(i)ce.
11 20 As London.
5 5 Puffin's Pla(i)ce.
5 10 The Smurfs Christmas Special.
5 40 As London.
11 35 The Sweeney.
12 35 am Weather.

Granada
6 25 As London.
11 35 Film: The Fury. 1978 Psycho-thriller with Kirk Douglas.
1 40 Close.

HTV
6 25 As Granada.
11 35 pm Muhammad Ali Goes East.
12 20 Weather; close.
West: As Wales except: 12 20 am Five Ways of Christmas. 12 25 Weather; close.

South
6 25 As London.
11 35 pm Paul McCartney — The Man, His Music, His Movies.
12 5 Christmas Company; close.

South-West
6 25 As London.
11 15 Gus Honeybun's Magic Birthdays.
11 20 As London.
5 5 Newsport.
5 10 Smurfs Christmas Special.
5 40 As London.
11 35 The Sweeney.
12 35 am Postscript; weather; close.

Yorkshire
6 25 As London.
11 35 pm Return of the Saint.
12 35 am Close.

RADIO

Radio 1

5 53 am Radio 1 Chip Shop. 6 0 Mark Page. 8 0 Peter Powell. 10 0 Dave Lee Travis. 1 0 pm Lenny Henry. 2 0 Paul Gambaccini. 4 0 Saturday Live. 6 30 Feel the Spirit: The London Community Gospel Choir. 7 30 Ian Brass. 9 30-12 0 am Dixie Peach.

Radio 2

4 0 am John Turner. 6 0 George Ferguson. 8 5 David Jacobs. 10 0 Sounds of the 60s. 11 0 Album Time. 1 0 pm Radio Active. 1 30 Sport on 2. 5 30 Knokke Cup 1984. 6 0 Folk on 2. 7 0 Jazz Score at Ronnie Scott's. 7 30 A Celebration of Christmas with Dana, Cliff Richard and Roy Castle. 9 30 Big Band Special. 10 5 Ken Bruce. 12 5 am Night Owls. 1 0 Peter Dickson and Charles Nove. 3 0-4 0 Wally Whyton.

Radio 3

6 55 Weather; News; Aubade.
9 0 News; Record Review: Falla's Three Cornered Hat.
10 15 Stereo Release. Mozart: Piano Quartet K478 (Beaux Arts Trio, Bruno Giuranna); Martinu: Four Madrigals (Robin Canter, oboe, David Campbell, clarinet, Graham Sheen, bassoon).
11 15 BBC Welsh SO, Groves, Peter Donohoe (piano). Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No. 3 (12 0 Interval); William Mathias: Helios; Mussorgsky, orch. Ravel: Pictures from an Exhibition.
1 0 News; Cello and Piano (Steven Isserlis, Peter Evans). Janacek: Pohadka; Liszt: Romance oubliee; Elegy No. 1; Brahms: Sonata in E minor.
2 0 Verdi's Operas: Il Trovatore. Sung in Italian with Nicolai Ghiaurov, Norma Burrowes, Joan Sutherland, Luciano Pavarotti, NPO, Bonynge. Interval at 3 15.
5 0 Jazz Record Requests.
5 45 Critics' Forum.
6 35 Franz Schmidt: Quintet in A. Thea King (clarinet), Clifford Benson (piano), members of the Allegri Quartet.
7 35 The Angel on the Train. Story by Eugene Dubnov.
8 9 Handel's Messiah, performed in Basil Lam's edition, with Patrizia Kwella (sop.), Margaret Cable (mezzo), Charles Brett (countertenor), Maldwyn Davies (tenor), Stephen Roberts (baritone), Richard Hickox Singers, City of London Sinfonia, Hickox. Part 1.
9 0 Born of the Virgin Mary. Talk on the credibility of Virgin Birth.
9 20 Handel's Messiah. Parts 2 and 3.
11 0 Haydn: Sonata in B minor (Malcolm Bilson, fortepiano); Concerto in D (Steven Lubin, fortepiano, Mozartian Players, Ransom Wilson); Divertimento in B flat (Sylvia Marlow, harpsichord).
11 57 News.

Radio 4

5 55 Shipping Forecast.
6 0 News Briefing.
6 10 Prelude.
6 30 News; Farming Today.
6 50 Prayer for the Day.
7 0 News; Today's Papers.
7 15 On Your Farm.
7 45 In Perspective.
7 50 Down to Earth. Garden tips.
8 0 News; Today's Papers.
8 15 Smash of the Day. Take it from Here — Christmas with the Glums.
8 48 Yesterday in Parliament.
9 5 Christmas in Poland
9 50 News Stand. Weeklies reviewed.
10 5 The Week in Westminster.
10 30 Pick of the week.
11 30 A Christmas Story by Joe Mahon.
12 0 News; A Small Country Living at Christmas.
12 27 News Quiz of the Year.
1 0 News; Any Questions? With David Steel, David Frost, Enoch Powell, Lord Soper.
2 0 News; Afternoon Play: Rose at Roquebrune by Dawn Lowe-Watson.
3 0 News; Children Talking . . . about Christmas.
3 30 Further Thanks to Uncle Fred. Isabella Wallich, remembers recording pioneer Fred Gaisberg
4 15 The Bitter and the Sweet. Two pioneering sisters with different attitudes to backwoods life.
4 45 Persona Grata. Roy Plomley's fictional favourites
5 0 Wildlife.
5 25 Week Ending. News send-up.
6 0 News.
6 25 Karluk: Ship crushed in Arctic ice 70 years ago.
7 5 Stop the Week.
7 45 Baker's Dozen.
8 30 Saturday-night Theatre: Christmas at Dingley Dell adapted from Dickens'
10 0 News.
10 15 A Day in the Jungle. Sounds of Borneo.
11 0 Evening Service.
11 15 The Demon Cakestand of Beestley Chase. Terrible tale of terror.
11 30 In One Ear. Seasonal, not to say topical, humour.
12 0 News.
12 15 Victorian Christmas Miscellany
12 33 Shipping Forecast.

Wales (340m): 6 30 am If You Don't Get Up You'll Miss It. 8 30 Playday. 9 30 Good Golly Miss Molly! 11 3 Christmas Roadshow. 1 5 Sportstime. 1 15 Sporting Ties. 1 45 Get Set. 2 30 Sportstime. 6 25 As Radio 4. 10 0 – 4 0 am As Radio 2. Cymru (VHF): 5 55 am Weather: Gweler Radio 4. 7 45 Byd Amaeth. 8 0 Newyddion: Dros fy Sbectol. 8 15 Ribidires. 9 0 Newyddion: Gwyliau. 9 40 Cadw Reiat. 11 30 Sgwpasbigyn. 12 2 Byd y Bel. 12 30 Cwlwm Pump. 1 0 Newyddion; Crafu'r Gwaelod. 1 35 Ar y Ffordd. 2 30 Chwaraeon. 6 25 - Close Gweler Radio 4.

Scotland (370m): 6 0 am As Radio 4. 6 32 Farming News. 6 50 As Radio 4. 7 10 Travel Time. 7 35 Weekly Report. 8 0 News: Leisure Trail. 9 3 Top Forty Show. 10 30 Call David Scott (041)-338 6161). 11 30 Jimmy Mack's Old Gold. 1 3 pm Gerry McKenzie's Tartan Terror Show. 2 2 Sportsound. 6 0 News: Take the Floor. 7 30 Nashville Express. 8 30-Close. As Radio 4.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave 648kHz (463m) at the following times GMT: 6 0 am Newsdesk. 7 0 News. 7 9 Twenty-Four Hours. 7 30 From the Weeklies. 7 45 Network UK. 8 0 News. 8 9 Reflections. 8 15 A Jolly Good Show. 9 0 News. 9 9 British Press Review. 9 15 The World Today. 9 30 Financial News. 9 40 Look Ahead. 9 45 Singers of Schubert. 10 0 News: That's Trad. 10 15 Letter from America. 10 30 People and Politics. 11 0 News. 11 9 News About Britain. 11 15 About Britain. 12 0 noon Radio Newsreel. 12 15 Anything Goes. 12 45 Sports Roundup. 1 0 News. 1 9 Twenty Four Hours. 1 30 Network UK. 1 45 Country Music Profile. 2 0 News: Music Now. 2 30 Album Time. 3 0 Radio Newsreel. 3 15 Saturday Special. 4 0 News. 4 9 Commentary. 4 15 Saturday Special. 8 0 News: 9 15 What's News. 9 30 People and Politics. 10 0 News. 10 9 From our own Correspondent. 10 30 New Ideas. 10 40 Reflections. 10 45 Sports Roundup. 11 0 News. 11 9 Commentary. 11 15 Letterbox. 11 30 Meridian. 12 0 midnight News. 12 9 News About Britain. 12 15 Radio Newsreel. 12 30 Baker's Half Dozen. 1 0 News: Play of the Week: A Christmas Carol. 2 0 News. 2 9 British Press Review. 2 15 Sackbuts and Sinfonias. 2 30 Sports Review. 3 0 News. 3 9 News about Britain. 3 15 From our own Correspondent. 3 30 Jazz Score. 4 0 Newsdesk. 4 30 Juke Box Dury. 5 45 Letter from America.

SUNDAY

BBC-1

9 0 am Fingerbobs. 9 15 Knock Knock. 9 30 Away in a Manger. 10 0 Asian Magazine. 10 30 Bonanza. 11 20 Morning Worship. 12 5 pm Peace in No Man's Land. The truce on the Western Front on Christmas Eve, 1914. 12 40 Wait Till Your Father Gets Home. 1 5 Kung Fu. 1 50 News Headlines. 1 55 The Rock Gospel Show Christmas Special. 2 30 The Old Man of Hoy. 3 10 Film: Ice Station Zebra. 1968 Alistair MacLean adventure with Rock Hudson, Ernest Borgnine, Patrick McGoohan.

5 30 **THE PRISONER OF ZENDA:** 6. Final instalment of Anthony Hope's Ruritanian adventure yarn, dramatised by James Andrew Hall, with Malcolm Sinclair as both Rudolfs. Ceefax sub-titles.

6 0 **NEWS**; weather.

6 10 **APPEAL.** By Jimmy Hill on behalf of The Boys' Brigade.

6 15 **SONGS OF PRAISE.** A candlelit carol service from Lincoln Cathedral, introduced by Geoffrey Wheeler. Ceefax sub-titles.

7 15 **EVER DECREASING CIRCLES.** A seasonal edition of Esmonde and Larbey's wry comedy, with Richard Briers as poor Martin, sulking at home while his wife goes off to the ball — or rather, to Paul's.

7 45 **BIG DEAL:** Nine Bob Notes. Ray Brooks as gambler Robby, in another instalment of the East End saga, now flush from a poker game and putting it about a bit — until a catch becomes apparent. Ceefax sub-titles.

8 35 **STEPTOE AND SON.** Wilfred Brambell, Harry H. Corbett as the junkyard duo in 1972 big-screen spin-off from the classic sitcom which opens the action out, what with Harold getting wed to a stripper, and his old Dad joining them on honeymoon.

10 10 **FRANK AND SELINA'S CHRISTMAS TIME.** Not so much a late late Breakfast Time, more a sample of the Beeb's Christmas menu. F. Bough, S. Scott meet the stars, switch on the highlights, while Barry Norman previews the holiday movies.

10 45 **NEWS**; weather.

11 0 **THE HOT SHOE SHOW.** Wayne Sleep hosts a spectacular package of both Terpsichorean and technological wizardry, with Bonnie Langford, Cherry Gillespie, Finola Hughes among the dancers, and the routines including a dazzling, ambitious, Busby Berkeley-style number choreographed by Wayne and Anthony Van Laast.

11 55 **THE JAMES LAST CHRISTMAS CONCERT.** The king of the middle-of-the-road market takes his orchestra to St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin for a charity concert of festive music.

12 45 Weather; close.

Wales: 10 30-11 20 am The Old Man of Hoy. 1 55 pm Weekend Rugby Union. 2 30-3 10 Let the Children Sing.

Scotland: 3 10 pm Sunday Sportscene. 4 0 Beechgrove Carols. 4 35 Cartoon time. 4 45-5 30 The Dukes of Hazzard. 6 15-7 15 Good Tidings We Bring.

Northern Ireland: 2 30-3 10 pm Surgeons in Dublin.

BBC-2

9 0 am Pages from Ceefax. 2 5 pm Horizon. Supercharged — The Grand Prix Car (1924-1939). 2 55 Music from St. George's. Philip Jones Brass Ensemble play Handel, Salzedo, Praetorius, Langford, John Bull. 3 45 One Man and His Dog. 4 30 Geoffrey Smith's World of Flowers: Irises.

4 55 **NEWS REVIEW.** With sub-titles; presented by Jan Leeming.

5 25 **THE FIRST NOELS.** 6: Carols Rediscovered. In the penultimate programme of the series Sir Geraint Evans tells how carols were once in danger of dying out, and how Good King Wenceslas was dismissed as "doggerel" that would never catch on . . .

5 40 **SKI SUNDAY.** Britain's Konrad Bartelski joins David Vine in Santa Caterina in Italy to weigh up the Ladies' Downhill World Cup action.

6 15 **LITTLE NEZHA FIGHTS GREAT DRAGON KING.** An old Chinese legend is the inspiration for this delightful and technically accomplished cartoon from the famous Shanghai Animation Studios, telling how Nezha the mandarin's son saved his people.

7 15 **PRINCE'S PROGRESS:** The Brothers Royal. An occasion for getting the Royal Wedding souvenir mug out of the display cabinet, one feels, and filling it with a little something in order to drink the health of their little RHs. This BBC Television News special on Prince William and his baby brother records the magical moments, the milestones that we've all been privileged to share, from the poise, the sang-froid, the charm with which Prince Harry faced his first photo-call, to his big brother's triumphant Commonwealth tour.

7 40 **NEWS**; weather.

7 45 **THE NATURAL WORLD.** Lost World of the Medusa. Barry Paine tells the story of the remote, limestone islands of Paulau in the Pacific, and the weird wildlife that flourishes there on coral rubble, and in a strange pulsating lake filled with creatures out of a horror movie.

8 35 **FANNY AND ALEXANDER.** The cinema version of Ingmar Bergman's magical, glorious film about childhood, inspired by his own, won the Best Foreign Language film Oscar this year — but what we are seeing now is the original, five-hour TV version, spread over three evenings. Pernilla Alwin and Bertil Gueve play the young brother and sister growing up in a warm, exuberant threatrical family in the Sweden of 1910, and enjoying a Christmas of wonder and delight.

10 10 **TORN CURTAIN.** Paul Newman, Julie Andrews lead flawed Hitchcock thriller about American scientist on the run in East Germany. 12 20 Close.

ITV London

6 55 am Good Morning Britain including (7 2-8 0) Rub-a-Dub-Tub and (8 2-8 30) Rainbow Cartoon. 9 25 Disney at Christmas. 9 30 The Smurfs Christmas Special. 10 0 Morning Worship. 11 0 Chips. 12 0 Cartoon Time. 12 15 pm Kelly's Eye. 1 0 Terrahawks. 1 30 The Big Match. 2 15 Children Sing Christmas at Canterbury. 3 15 Film: Scrooge (1970) with Albert Finney, Alec Guinness, Edith Evans, and Kenneth More. Oracle sub-titles. 5 15 Jasper Carrott's Got This Mole. 5 30 Bullseye.

6 15 **NEWS**; weather.

6 25 **HIGHWAY:** Bethlehem. Not THE Bethlehem, but a small village in West Wales, where Harry Secombe celebrates the season with Wendy Craig, Lorna Dallas, Roy Castle.

7 15 **THE QUEEN AND HER CEREMONIAL HORSES:** The Story of the Royal Mews. Loyal subjects are now faced with a clash between BBC-2's biog of the royal mites, and this TVS documentary on the royal mounts — though this one has human interest too, with footage of the Queen and other royal riders at home with their horses. Peter Williams tells the backstage story of the horses and carriages that figure in great state occasions, and meets the people who look after them. Oracle sub-titles.

8 15 **CHRISTMAS SURPRISE SURPRISE!** Cilla Black and Christopher Biggins with the last gasp-making edition of the series. Oracle sub-titles.

9 15 **NEWS**; weather.

9 30 **DECEMBER FLOWER,** by Judy Allen. Jean Simmons leads this film drama from Granada as the newly-widowed Etta who goes to stay with an aged aunt she has never met. The old lady, she thinks, is not being properly looked after — a view which makes her unpopular with those closest to Aunt M. With Mona Washbourne as Aunt M, Pat Heywood, June Ritchie and, making his first acting appearance for 17 years, director Bryan Forbes. Oracle sub-titles.

10 45 **BEST FRIENDS — CLEO LAINE AND JOHN WILLIAMS.** A musical special featuring the combined talents of singer and guitarist, joined for the occasion by violinist Nigel Kennedy, and Young Musician of the Year Emma Johnson, with Mrs Dankworth's husband's orchestra providing the backing. London News Headlines.

11 45 **SWEET DREAMS.** Documentary that charts the thrust of the hot rod from fun car to drag racer. Narrated by Dave Lee Travis.

12 40 **PEACE.** Closedown.

Channel 4

1 5 pm Utopia Limited. 1 30 Irish Angle. 2 0 Film: Silent Laughter. Silent comedy compilation with Harry Langdon, Fatty Arbuckle, Buster Keaton. 3 30 Citizen 2000.

4 0 **BOOK FOUR.** Hermione Lee with a review of the past year's books, inviting Germaine Greer, Peter Ackroyd and Humphrey Carpenter to pick their favourites and explain their disappointments.

4 30 **KAREN ARMSTRONG:** Varieties of Religious Experience. In the last programme of the series the former nun discusses some of the issues raised in it, with Father Gerard Hughes, Jesuit priest and philosophy lecturer. News Summary; weather.

5 0 **THE CURIOUS CASE OF SANTA CLAUS.** Another chance to see Robin Crichton's award-winning film, first screened on Christmas Eve 1982, which blends comedy and documentary to investigate the legend of the jolly old gentleman. James Coco plays S. Claus; Jon Pertwee is the psychiatrist helping him recall his origins.

6 0 **AMERICAN FOOTBALL.** Nicky Horne and John Smith with the weekly gridiron slot.

7 15 **THE FINGERTIP PHENOMENON.** That's what they call Yorkshireman Ron Fawcett, who depends on — and from — his long strong fingers when he's plying his trade as Britain's only professional rock climber. In this film portrait, co-directed by first name in the field Sid Perou, Fawcett tackles the dizzy cliffs of the River Verdon gorge in Provence, joined by his wife and fellow climber Gill.

8 15 **THE MASKS OF DEATH.** Peter Cushing and Sir John Mills plays Holmes and Watson, out of retirement to tackle a case which involves the future of the nation, no less, in a new tale actually written by N. J. Crisp but promising to be faithful to Doyle.

9 45 **CAROLS FROM CHRIST CHURCH.** A repeated programme of music and readings from Christ Church in Oxford, with Alec McCowen and Ian Charleson.

10 40 **IAN BREAKWELL'S CHRISTMAS DIARY.**

10 50 **TALL TARGET.** Anthony Mann's exciting suspense thriller, made in 1951, has a 19th century setting and a trainboard location. Dick Powell plays a discredited police detective who alone believes that Abraham Lincoln is to be assassinated on the train carrying him to his inauguration in 1861. 12 15 Close.

2 10 pm The Living Body. 2 40 Film: The Bespoke Overcoat. With David Kossoff, and Alfie Bass. 3 10 Chips' Comic. 3 40 Gymnastics. 4 40 Henllys Fawr. 5 15 Two Track Mind. 6 0 American Football. 7 15 Y Nadolig Hwnnw. 7 25 Wil Cwac Cwac. 7 30 Newyddion. 7 35 Caryl. 8 5 Rhaglen Hywel Gwynfryn. 8 45 Hywel Morgan. 9 25 Teilwng Yw'r Oen. 10 5 Hill Street Blues. 11 5 Don Quixote. Ballet. 12 40 Diwedd.

Regional variations (Sunday)

Anglia
6 55 As London.
11 0 The Night the Animals Talked.
11 30 Cartoon Time.
11 45 Film: The Nutcracker. Animated fairy story (1973).
12 15 pm As London.
11 45 Return of the Saint.
12 40 The Christmas People; close.

Central
6 55 As London.
9 25 The Star of Bethlehem.
9 30 Smurfs Christmas Special.
10 0 Morning Worship.
11 0 Behind the Beat of the Big Bass Drum.
11 35 Star Fleet.
12 5 Spinnolio.
12 15 As London.
11 45 pm Family.
12 15 Close.

Channel
6 55 As London.
9 25 Close.
12 25 pm Weather; Good News.
12 30 Getting On.
1 0 As London.
11 45 The Devlin Connection.
12 40 Good News; close.

Granada
6 55 As London.
9 30 The Fir Tree.
10 0 Morning Worship.
11 0 The Night the Animals Talked.
11 25 Aap Kaa Hak.
11 30 This is Your Right.
12 15 pm As London.
11 45 Magnum.
12 45 Close.

HTV
6 55 As London.
11 0 A Snow White Christmas.
12 15 pm As London.
11 45 The Devlin Connection.
12 35 Five Ways of Christmas.
12 40 Weather; close.
Wales: As West except: 10 45 pm Cardiff Festival of Choirs — Handel's "Messiah." 12 35 Weather; close.

South
6 55 As London.
9 25 Action Line.
9 30 The Smurfs Christmas Special.
10 0 Morning Worship.
11 0 Scooby Goes Hollywood.
11 50 Cartoon.
12 0 Canon in the Kitchen.
12 15 pm As London.
11 45 pm The Sweeney.
12 45 Christmas Company; close.

South-West
6 55 As London.
9 30 The Fir Tree.
10 0 Morning Worship.
11 0 The Night the Animals Talked.
11 25 Look and See.
11 30 The Italian Connection.
12 5 Cartoontime.
12 15 As London.
11 45 pm The Devlin Connection.
12 40 Postscript; weather; close.

Tyne-Tees
6 55 As London.
9 25 Morning Glory.
9 30 The Fir Tree.
10 0 Morning Worship.
11 0 The Smurfs.
11 15 North-east News.
11 20 Chips.
12 15 As London.
11 45 pm University Carol Service.
12 45 Toft Hill Handbell Ringers.
12 50 Star of Bethlehem; close.

Yorkshire
6 55 As London.
9 30 The Fir Tree.
10 0 Morning Worship.
11 0 Cartoon Time.
11 15 Day of a Bear Cub.
11 45 The Smurfs Christmas Special.
12 15 As London.
11 45 pm Hotel.
12 40 Five Minutes; close.

Radio 1

5 55 am Radio 1 Chip Shop. 6 0 Mark Page. 8 0 Peter Powell. 10 0 The Read and Wright Christmas Show. 12 0 Jimmy Savile's "Old Record" Club. 2 15 pm Michael Jackson — Rock's Thriller. 4 0 Hitsville USA. 5 0 Top 40. 7 0 Anne Nightingale. 9 0 Robbie Vincent. 11 0-12 0 midnight Feel the Spirit.

Radio 2

4 0 am John Turner. 6 0 George Ferguson. 7 30 Roger Royle. 9 0 David Jacobs. 11 0 Desmond Carrington. 12 30 pm The Random Jottings of Hinge and Bracket. 1 0 Ray Moore Presents Two's Best. 2 0 Benny Green. 3 0 Alan Dell; Sounds Easy. 4 0 String Sound. 4 30 Sing Something Simple. 5 0 Charlie Chester. 6 30 Brain of Sport Challenge Match. 7 0 Vernon and Maryetta Midgley. 7 30 Glamorous Nights. 8 30 Sunday Half-Hour. 9 0 Your Hundred Best Tunes. 10 0 Songs from the Shows. 10 45 Robert Docker. 11 0 Sounds of Jazz. 1 0 am Peter Dickson. 3 0-4 0 Ray Moore Presents Two's Best.

Radio 3

6 55 Weather.
7 0 News; Baroque Christmas Music.
8 0 Brahms Chamber Music: String Sextet (Heifetz / Israel Baker / William Primrose / Virginia Majewski / Gregor Piatigorsky / Gabor Rejto); Clarinet Sonata in E flat (Reginald Kell / Joel Rosen); Geistliches Wiegenlied (Kirsten Flagstad / Herbert Downes / Gerald Moore).
9 0 News; Your Concert Choice. Debussy: Petite Suite (Claude Helffer / Haakon Austbo, piano duet); John Ireland: Cello Sonata (Julian Lloyd Webber / John McCabe); Stanford: Irish Symphony (Bournemouth Sinfonietta / Del Mar).
10 30 Music Weekly.
11 15 BBC SO / Pritchard, Josephine Barstow (soprano). Britten: Les Illuminations; (11 40 Interval); Bruckner: Symphony No 7.
1 0 Syrinx play Roussel (Serenade Op 30). Derek Bourgeois (Quintet Op. 90), Villa-Lobos (Quintet).
1 50 ECO / Britten. Recordings of Mozart's Serenade No 6 and Symphony No 25.
2 30 Emil Gilels (piano). Scriabin: Sonata No 3; Five Preludes Op 74: Prokofiev: Sonata No 3; (3 10 Interval); Beethoven: Sonata in B flat (Hammerklavier).
4 5 Martinu: Cello Concerto No 2. Angelica May / Austrian RSO / Neumann.
4 45 Three Voices and Piano (James Bowman, Peter Pears, John Shirley Quirk, Benjamin Britten). Wolf: Three Michelangelo Songs; Three Christmas Songs; Britten: Canticle IV: Journey of the Magi; Schutz: Die Seele Christi heilige mich.
5 30 New Premises. Arts review by Stephen Games.
6 15 BBC PO 50th Anniversary, cond Kurt Sanderling. Mahler: Symphony No. 8.
7 40 Liberty Comes to Krahwinkel. Play by Johann Nestroy.
9 0 Faure (Ballade) and Franck (Prelude, Aria and Finale). Malcolm Binns (piano).
9 45 Utah SO/Joseph Silverstein, Elmar Oliveira (violin). Dvorak: Serenade in D minor; Hindemith: Concert music for brass and strings; Sibelius: Violin Concerto.
11 0 Elly Ameling and Rudolf Jansen (soprano and piano). Songs by Schubert.
11 57 News

Radio 4

5 55 Shipping forecast.
6 0 News Briefing.
6 10 Prelude.
6 30 News; Morning Has Broken.
7 0 News; Sunday Papers: 7 15 Apna Hi Ghar Samajhiye; 7 45 Bells, 7 50 Turning over New Leaves.
8 0 News; Sunday Papers.
8 15 Sunday.
8 50 Week's Good Cause: gifts for people in need.
9 0 News; Sunday Papers.
9 15 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke.
9 30 Morning Service.
10 15 The Archers. Omnibus edition.
11 15 Weekend.
12 0 News; My Music. Seasonal tunes identified by Muir, Amis, Norden and Wallace.
12 30 The Food Programme. Christmas confectionery.
1 0 The World this Weekend: News.
2 0 News; Treasures and Trifles. Tales of collections and collectors.
2 30 Afternoon Play: When the Snow Lay Round About by James Forsyth. King Wenceslas of Bohemia faces war and treachery.
4 0 News; Everyman's Guide to Mornington Crescent. Examination of the "greatest game on earth."
4 30 The Rector of Haworth. Impression of The Rev Patrick Bronte by Denis Hawthorne.
5 0 News; Christmas in Poland.
6 0 News.
6 15 The Woodland Gospels — according to Captain Beaky and his Band.
7 15 The Migraine Sufferer's History of Music. Music for throbbing heads.
7 35 A Small Country Living at Christmas.
8 0 A Musical Evening with Australian mezzo-soprano Yvonne Minton.
9 0 News; Masters' India. Book Three: The Lotus and the Wind (4).
10 0 News.
10 15 Weather-wise. Forces that determine rain or shine.
11 0 Mindful of the Love. Advent talk.
11 15 Now We are 60. Christopher Robin Milne and the real world of Pooh.
11 45 Radio Brynsiencyn. One-man radio station in Anglesey.
12 0 News.
12 15 Victorian Christmas Miscellany. 2: To Celebrate or Not.
12 33 Shipping forecast.

Wales (340m): 4 0 am As Radio 2. 8 0 As Radio 4. 8 10 Celebration. 8 40 Letter from America. 9 5 All Things Considered. 9 45 Keep Your Tails Up. 10 0 American Roundabout. 11 3 Christmas Sounds Unforgettable. 12 3 pm Radio Brynsiencyn. 12 30 First Edition. 1 15 Parry's People. 2 0 On Show. 2 30 Christmas Music. 4 2 The Geevers Selection. 4 30 As Cymru. 5 0 As Radio 4. 6 0 As Radio 4. 12 0-4 0 am As Radio 2.

Cymru (VHF): 5 55 am Weather: Gweler Radio 4. 8 0 Newyddion: Papurau. 8 10 Bore Sul. 9 0 Newyddion: Papurau. 9 10 Segura. 9 50 Piniwn. 10 30 Ffresgo. 11 2 Cywair. 11 45 Oedfa'r Bore. 12 20 pm Wythnos i'w Chofio. 1 0 O'r Newydd. 1 40 Byw yn y Wlad. 2 0 Cerddwn Ymlaen. 2 30 Gweler Wales. 4 2 Garddio. 4 30 Caniadaeth y Cysegr. 5 0 Canllaw. 5 30 Dewch am Dro. 6 0 Gweler Radio 4. 8 0 Cyfansoddwyr Cymru. 8 45 Llys Bach. 9 15 Rhwng Gwyl a Gwaith. 10 3 Talwrn y Beirdd. 10 45 Ar Derfyn Dydd. 11 0-Close Gweler Radio 4.

Scotland (370m): 6 50 As Radio 4. 7 45 Letter from America. 8 0 As Radio 4. 8 10 Howard Lockhart's Greetings Programme. 8 55 Week's Good Cause. 9 0 News. Let Us Worship. 10 0 News: National Sportsquiz. 10 30 Andy Cameron. 1 0 pm News; Gerry Davis. 3 0 News: Prospect. 3 30 The Musical Garden. 4 30 Make Minor Music. 5 0 News; Portrait. 5 30 John Milne Interviews. 5 50 Sunday Extra. 6 0 As Radio 4. 8 0 Harvest of Dust. 8 40 Victims. 9 0 Close. As Radio 4.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave 648kHz (463m) at the following times GMT: 6 0 am Newsdesk. 7 0 News. 7 9 Twenty-Four Hours. 7 30 From our own Correspondent. 7 50 Letter from London. 8 0 News; Reflections. 8 15 The Pleasure's Yours. 9 0 News. 9 9 British Press Review. 9 15 Sports Review. 9 45 Behind the Universe. 10 0 News. Short Story. 10 15 Classical Record Review. 10 30 Bush House Carol Service. 11 0 News. 11 9 News about Britain. 11 15 From our own Correspondent. 12 0 noon News; Play of the Week: A Christmas Carol. 1 0 News. 1 9 Twenty Four Hours. 1 30 Nineteen Eighty-Four. 1 45 The Sandi Jones Request Show. 2 0 News Summary. 2 30 Wives and Daughters. 3 0 Radio Newsreel. 3 15 Concert Hall. 4 0 News. 4 9 Commentary. 4 15 Press Barons. 5 0 News. 5 9 Meridian. 8 0 News. 9 15 The Pleasure's Yours. 10 0 News. 10 9 Not so much a Hobby. 10 25 Words. 10 30 Financial Review. 10 40 Reflections. 10 45 Sports Roundup. 11 0 News. 11 9 Commentary. 11 15 Letter from America. 11 30 Plato to Nato. 12 0 midnight News. 12 9 News about Britain. 12 15 Radio Newsreel. 12 30 Bush House Carol Service. 1 0 News. The Artillery Terrace Hot Five Stomp Again. 1 45 The Classical Guitar. 2 0 News. 2 9 British Press Review. 2 15 Good Books. 2 30 Music Now. 3 0 News. 3 9 News about Britain. 3 15 Readings from Samuel Johnson. 3 30 Anything Goes. 4 0 Newsdesk. 4 30 Gemini to Jo'Burg. 5 45 Recording of the Week.

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هكذا من الاصل

BIRTHS

CECILIA and ROLF ROTHERMEL are happy to announce the Birth of their twin Sons (Felix and Rolf) on Dec 14, 1984, at Queen Charlotte Hospital.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

CAROLE LAWRENCE is 21 Today! Many happy returns. Signed Ash, Adam, Susu, Jane & Pushkin.

ENGAGEMENTS

ADRIAN P. SMITH would like to announce that GILLIAN I. INGRAM DIPCOT has accepted his hand in marriage.

STEWART — ANDREWS. — The engagement is announced between Donald C. Stewart, younger Son of Mr & Mrs A. Stewart, of Ayr, Scotland, and Caridwen J. Andrews, only Daughter of Dr and & Mrs H. Andrews, of Hartford, Cheshire. Congratulations from both families.

DEATHS

BATTERSBY (MARGARET MARY) (nee Egan). Widow of the late Walter Battersby, passed away at her home, The Barn, Glaston, Rutland, on December 20, 1984, aged 86 years. Funeral Service at St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Oakham, on Friday, December 28, at 12 noon.

BEIDAS. — In loving and everlasting memory of Fran (Frances Margaret), who passed away after a long and courageous struggle with illness and pain, on Thursday, Dec 13, 1984. She will be much missed by her sister, Elizabeth, her Brother-in-law, Harold and Alexander, Rachel, Benedict and Sophia Hillman, who convey their deepest sympathy to Henry, Alexandra and Adrian Beidas.

LOCKETT (JOAN DOREEN). — On December 19, 1984, beloved Wife of John, Mother of Christopher and Clare. Now at peace after a long illness. Funeral service at St Andrew's Church, Oxshott, 12 noon, on Monday, December 24. Private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations to British Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

LUBY (WILLIAM). — On December 20, 1984, in hospital, and of Oswald Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, BILL, darling Husband of Marjorie, and beloved Father of Jon and Peter. Funeral service at Manchester Crematorium on Saturday, December 22, at 11.30 am. No flowers by request. Inqs to Messrs George Meredith, tel. 061-480 2065.

WARD (EVELYNE). — On December 20, 1984, peacefully, at home after a long illness, dear Wife of Gerry. Funeral Service at Bournemouth Crematorium on Friday, December 28, at 11 a.m. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations for R.N.L.I. (Poole) may be sent to Mews Funeral Directors, 6 Bournemouth Road, Parkstone. Tel. 741169.

WATSON (THOMAS JOHN) (TOM). — Of Healdcroft, Healdwood Road, Woodley, died suddenly on Wednesday, December 19, 1984, dearly loved and happily remembered by Dorothy, Christopher and Gill. Service at Manchester Crematorium on Monday, December 24, at 3 pm. Family flowers only please, donations if wished to the Stockport Institute for the Deaf. Inqs. to J. & T. Rhodes Ltd. 061-430 2094.

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WINCOTT, JOHN CHARLES
75 Beechwood Road, Saltney, Clwyd, formerly care of Coppercorn, Sparrow Lane, Knutsford, Cheshire, died June 27, 1984. Particulars to A. W. Mawer and Co. Solicitors, 42 King Street West, Manchester, before February 28, 1985. Notice pursuant to S27 of the Trustee Act 1925.

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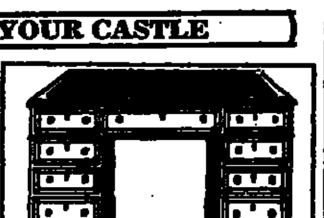


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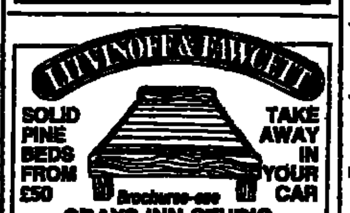
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Captives + Captors

Artists are invited to take part in an International Poster Competition organised by the Iraqi Cultural Centre, London. The theme for the competition is the maltreatment of Iraqi prisoners-of-war by the regime of Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran.

An International jury will award three principal prizes. Chosen posters will be printed and circulated throughout the world, and an exhibition of the works will be held in Baghdad and several other capital cities.

For entry forms, and all other details and information, apply to:

The Iraqi Cultural Centre, 177 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9LF.
Telephone: 01-637 9724/637 5821.

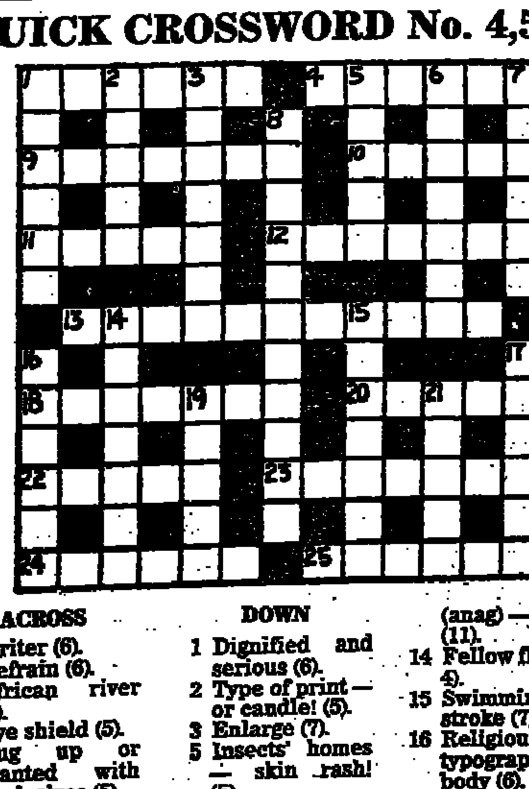
Last date for application:
31 January 1985.

Last date for submission of entry:
20 February 1985.

N.B. The International Red Cross issued on October 25th 1984 a powerful appeal to the governments of the 155 countries which are signatories to the Geneva Conventions concerning the grave and urgent threat to the physical and mental safety of some 50,000 Iraqi POWs in Iran. Full information on this matter will be sent to applicants.

The Iraqi Cultural Centre,
177 Tottenham Court Road, London W1.

QUICK CROSSWORD No. 4,591



ACROSS

1 Writer (6).
4 Refrain (6).
9 African river (7).
10 Eye shield (5).
11 Dug up or planted with explosives (5).
12 Waste disposal container (4-3).
13 Essex town (putting people in the branches?) (11).
18 He takes some cracking (4, 3).
20 Pigment (5).
22 Purify, maybe drastically (5).
23 Immediate importance (7).
24 Solicitor (6).
25 Fisherman (6).

DOWN

1 Dignified and serious (6).
2 Type of print — or candle! (5).
3 Enlarge (7).
5 Insects' homes — skin rash! (5).
6 Ridiculous (7).
7 Leap — early in the year (6).
8 No grounds to (anag) — school (11).
14 Fellow fliers (3-4).
15 Swimming stroke (7).
16 Religious or typographical body (6).
17 Petition as in 16 down (6).
19 Relative (5).
21 Trite (5).

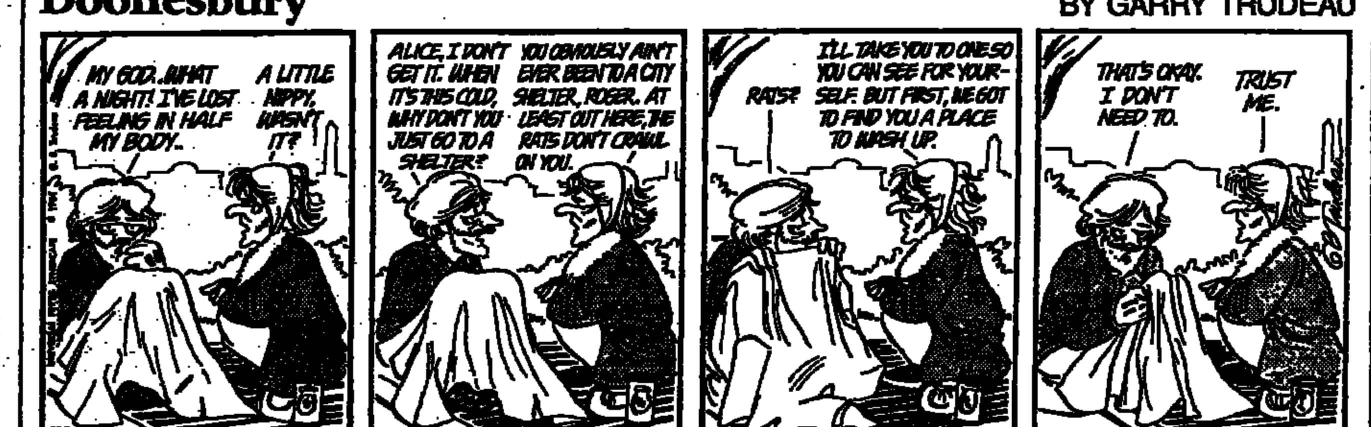
Solution No. 4,590

Across: 1 Debate; 4 Sight; 7 Crocus; 8 Grange; 9 Jehu; 10 Marmoset; 12 Twenty-first; 17 Snow-shoe; 19 Pail; 20 Ermine; 21 Tricky; 22 Tunny; 23 Bright.

Down: 1 Derwent; 2 Because; 3 Test match; 4 Scrum; 5 Genesis; 6 Treaty; 11 Reflector; 13 Woodman; 14 Ripping; 15 Trinket; 16 Odious; 18 Sandy.

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



Steve Bell





PUSHING OFF: Youngsters at Heathrow airport waiting for Christmas holiday fligths withtheir parents yesterday. Pictures By Martin Argles

Ustinov's death

Continued from page one

in recent times warning against the irresponsibility of contemplating limited nuclear war.

During President Andropov's long illness Marshal Ustinov was regarded as one of the key men running day-to-day Soviet affairs. But he failed to appear at the traditional November 7 military parade, where he had taken the salute in previous years.

Marshal Ustinov will lie in state until his funeral in the room where Presidents Andropov and Brezhnev were laid. The Prime Minister, Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, has put off by one day a visit to Turkey

Senior Nato sources in Brussels said they would watch with interest whether a military or civilian man was chosen

Health Department to warn Aids group on giving blood

By Penny Chorlton

The million or so regular blood donors are to be sent new leaflets from the Department of Health asking them not to make donations if they are in any of the high risk categories for Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

This follows the discovery that an Aids sufferer's donated blood had been passed on to four people, including a newborn baby.

More than 50 people who received blood transfusions from two Aids sufferers have been undergoing tests to establish whether they have the disease, which can take five years to develop.

Neither donor knew that they were infectious when they donated the blood in Hampshire and Scotland.

Although the donors have unwittingly passed on the Aids antibodies, it is not yet known whether those who received the blood may develop the disease itself.

The Government is making strenuous attempts to trace all those who may have received the tainted blood.

Aids, which undermines the body's resistance to any infection, can only be transmitted by certain types of sexual contact, or in the blood.

High risk categories for Aids include homosexuals, bisexuals, drug abusers and their sexual partners.

Dr Richard Tedder, a leading Aids researcher at the Middlesex Hospital, said that Aids should not be regarded as a "gay disease"; it could affect the whole community.

The Department of Health's warnings to blood transfusion centres earlier this year caused deep resentment among the gay community because it was felt that the disease had become synonymous with homosexuality in the public's mind.

"It was unpopular," a DHSS spokesman said yesterday. "We are in the process of writing a leaflet that will be more strongly worded and which will be sent to every donor in the country at his or her home address alongside cards making the next appointment to donate blood."

More than 2.5 million donations are made each year. Screening facilities to enable blood inspection before it is used in transfusions should be ready in six months' time.

Scientist hunted

From Joe Joyce in Dublin

Police in the Irish Republic are looking for a scientist who, they believe, has manufactured a new, military-type explosive for the IRA.

The substance was found in an IRA bomb factory in Dublin some time ago but has only recently been identified. Police sources say it is similar to an explosive known at RDX and used by the British and Irish armies.

The substance is more powerful than commercial gelignite which, along with home-made explosives based on fertilisers, has been used in most IRA bombs. It is also said to be more stable than gelignite, and easier to store and transport.

(IRA war pledge, page 3.).

Experts fall out on 'uneconomic' pits

Court releases sum to NUM

Continued from page one

Mr J. Walter and Mr J. Delman. The sequestrators said they did not yet know the status of these men. Mr Austen Fairest is president of North Derbyshire NUM.

The sequestrators have asked the NUR to give details of who authorised these three officials to receive the cash on behalf of the NUM, how the loan was secured, the reason of its payment in cash, the nature of the receipt given, and what legal advice the NUR sought before making the loan.

The NUR has doubts about the propriety of some of these questions and its national executive will discuss its response shortly. Mr John Melville Williams, QC, told Mr Justice Nicholls. A further hearing on this issue will be heard on January 16.

Mr Page also revealed that the TUC, after a series of meetings and correspondence with the sequestrators' lawyers, had refused to release information of any direct or indirect financial assistance that it had given to the NUM before the appointment of the sequestrators on October 26.

The sequestrators had been seeking information going back to December 31, 1983, the date of the last published TUC account. Mr Justice Nicholls ordered the TUC to give the sequestrators the full information sought.

The court heard yesterday that the TUC had set up two funds, the miners' hardship fund and the miners' solidarity fund. On November 20 the former fund held £269,000 and the latter £50. The sequestrators are closely examining the trustees of both funds to see if the funds are liable to seizure.

The support fund deeds say that its purpose is "to assist in the maintenance of the finances and the fabric of the organisation of the NUM." The hardship fund deeds state that its purpose is "to hold assets and income in trust for the relief among the beneficiaries."

The sequestrators have also made an inquiry about an alleged TUC "number 10 account" (of which the TUC claims no knowledge), and of any loans or grants being offered by foreign trade unions to the NUM.

Meanwhile the NUM president, Mr Arthur Scargill is expected to take action over the Nottinghamshire NUM's decision to weaken the power of the national executive over it by a rules change.

Mr Scargill said in a BBC2 Newsnight interview on Thursday night that the Notts area council had violated the rules of the NUM. "The national executive will consider this development, and take whatever action is necessary in accordance with the rules and constitution," he said.

Dons' attack on pits accountancy called nonsense by coal board

By John Ardill, Labour Correspondent

The National Coal Board's member for finance, Mr Brian Harrison, has condemned "major misunderstandings and inaccuracies" in an article by five academics criticising the board's accountancy methods as fundamentally flawed and questioning their use in declaring pits uneconomic.

The article, which caused a storm in advance of publication, is to appear in the January issue of Accountancy, with a commentary by Mr Harrison, who is a council member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, which publishes the journal.

Mr Harrison calls the five authors' calculations about Cortonwood pit in Yorkshire, the threatened closure of which sparked the mining strike, arrant nonsense. He says the authors have mistakenly implied that the board's colliery profit and loss account is the primary document used for closure decisions and have ignored the board's planning procedures.

He says: It is surprising that after spending some considerable time over the past two years researching with our active support in one of our mining areas, the authors have apparently chosen in their article not to understand how the board makes fundamental business decisions." Despite discussions with the authors, major misunderstandings and inaccuracies persist in their article.

The board is commissioning an independent review by accountants which, Mr Harrison says, it hopes will lead to a broader understanding of its accounting and planning procedures. But, he says, its colliery profit and loss account procedures are clearly defined and well understood in the industry.

The procedure is entirely adequate and appropriate for its intended purposes of seeing changes in the trend of results and performances, comparing results with operational budgets and highlighting activities with poor results.

In an editorial comment, Accountancy — which delayed publication of the academics' article at the NCB's request — says the authors felt unable to substantially amend their arguments after meeting the board.

The authors, Tony Berry, Teresa Capps, David Cooper, Trevor Hopper, and Tony Lowe, say in the article that they are not in a position to identify whether the profit and loss accounts are used for pit closure decisions but the information contained in them i used in public justification o such decisions.

Holidaying miners' chief urged to quit

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Sid Vincent, the Lancashire miners' leader at present in his apartment in Tenerife in the Canaries, should resign, one of his branch officials said yesterday.

But two other leading figures in the National Union of Mineworkers area defended his decision to take a holiday.

The resignation call came from a long-time opponent of the present strike, Mr Jim Lord, lodge secretary at the working Agecroft Colliery, Salford, Greater Manchester.

He said that striking miners, facing the worst Christmas of their lives, were angered that Mr Vincent made an appeal to help them one week and then flew out to Tenerife the next.

Mr Lord claimed that there would be calls for Mr Vincent's resignation at the area executive meeting on January 6.

But Mr Frank King, the Lancashire area vice-president, said everyone was entitled to their holidays. Lancashire's official holiday break is from today until January 2.



Mr Vincent — Christmas in Tenerife

Mr Jeff Gregory, president at the Bold colliery lodge in St Helens, Merseyside, said: "I imagine his friend paid for the holiday because, as a union official, Sid has received no wages since February. I hope it freshens him for the task of winning the strike."

Mr Vincent, aged 63, who is separated from his wife, flew to his holiday home on Tuesday with Mrs Joan Hodgkinson.

Lawyers' house shops approval soon

By Malcolm Dean

Property shops run by solicitors in competition with estate agents will be approved by the Law Society by the end of January.

Sir John Donaldson, the Master of the Rolls, has told the society that their rules do not prevent solicitors setting up property shops.

The society, which represents most of the 46,000 practising solicitors is drawing up guidelines to avoid conflicts of interest.

Solicitors who decide to open property shops will be able to act as the solicitor for the vendor, whose property they are selling, but they will not be able to act for the purchaser.

Solicitors will not be able to create companies to run the property shops. Their present indemnity insurance schemes would cover property sales.

The decision to let solicitor set up property shops, whicl was confirmed by the council of the Law Society on Thursday, means that the society will be on less firm ground in objecting to building societies offering a conveyancing service.

The solicitors' 180-year-old conveyancing monopoly will end when the Administration of Justice Bill, published on Thursday, passes through Parliament.

Dublin worried by 'RUC offer to Catholics'

The Irish Foreign Minister, Mr Peter Barry, has told the British Government of his "extreme concern" after allegations that the Royal Ulster Constabulary tried to induce a Roman Catholic to become an informer.

A radio show on RTE, the Irish Republic's broadcasting service, played a tape recording of an alleged conversation between an unnamed Northern Ireland Roman Catholic and an RUC officer.

Inducements were made to get the person—who had called at a police station in connection with a gun licence application—to become an informer.

It was claimed that the RUC man involved had broken regulations by making the offer.

The tape was given to RTE by a Dungannon, Co Tyrone, priest, Father Denis Faul.

Last night, Mr Barry said the radio programme had claimed that the RUC refused to return to the Catholic documents to which he was entitled, unless he would "play ball" with them.

The minister said: "The implications of this for the relationship between the RUC and the community are very great."

A spokesman for the Foreign Affairs Department in Dublin confirmed that Mr Barry had expressed his concern to the British Government through its embassy in Dublin.

The RUC said in Belfast last night that no complaint had been received.

A spokesman would neither confirm nor deny the allegations but added: "Any police force has a right to seek information in attempt to save life and protect the community, but of course improper methods would not be tolerated."

Cigarettes up

The price of Gallaher cigarettes, tobacco, and cigars is going up. From January 23, cigarettes will cost 2p more for a pack of 20.

Row grows

Continued from page one

present constitutional conventions, are responsible only to ministers or the senior civil servants in the department.

Dr Owen said that political advisers in the past have had no executive authority and their appointment ended with the dissolution of a Parliament.

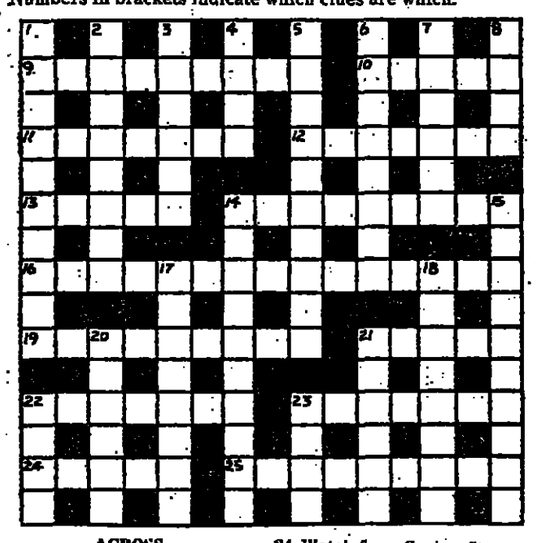
Although the Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine — who made the appointment with the approval of Mrs Thatcher — has referred to Mr Heath's decision in 1970 to bring in Lord Rayner from Marks and Spencer to head the procurement executive, that contract was for a much shorter period and was unpaid.

Dr Owen has consistently made it clear that he is concerned about Mrs Thatcher's political approach to senior appointments. He has also accused Mr Bernard Ingham, the Prime Minister's press secretary, of overstepping his role as a civil servant.

GUARDIAN CROSSWORD 17,117

APEX

EACH clue consists *either* of two definitions — one for the giver, the other for the gift which is being sent for 16 Across to distribute — EXAMPLE: Wine from a newspaperman (4, 8); ANSWER: REPORTER (8) who gives PORT (4), *or* a definition and a mixture of the letters of the required answer beginning with the beginning or ending with the end of a word in the clue. Numbers in brackets indicate which clues are which.



ACROSS

9 Singlet from a reaper (4, 9).
10 Counting-frames from a Cabinet minister (5).
11 Rug from a DIY enthusiast? (3, 7).
12 Scrap from a College caterer (3, 7).
13 Relics from an Insurance broker (5).
14 Record from a Muscle specialist? (3, 9).
16 (15, two words) see preamble.
19 Crib from a Junkie (9, 9).
21 Broom from a Somebody (5).
22 Bunker from 9 Across? (3, 7).
23 Some paper from Country gentlemen (5, 7).
24 Watch from Custos (5).
25 Clothing from the Receiver (5, 9).

DOWN

1 Giant feather from a First-nighter? (10, two words).
2 A strong instrument from a Musician (8).
3 Water jug from the Butlers? (4, 6).
4 Strait-jacket from a Celebrity (4).
5 A Cottar's rifle from a Peer (10).
6 A great deal from the Sailors (3, 8).
7 Sanskrit script from a Hungarian (6).
8 Song from a Delius fan (4).
14 Turner, perhaps, from an Artsman in Cheam (10).
15 Some nuts from the Gaffer (4, 10).
17 Board game from the Peacocks? (2, 8).
18 Baggage from Sisters of Mercy (8).
20 Some ornaments from the Boyfriends (6).
21 Something groovy from the Savages (3, 6).
22 Powder compacts from a Theatrical Company (4).
23 Undies from a Netball Team (4).

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 17,116

A	T	O	M	B	O	M	B	S		H	A	M	M	E	R
Z	L	O	U			Y		V		I		E		
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L		K		H		M		R		L		E		
E	V	A	N	S		T	R	U	S	T	D	E	E	D	
A		N		T		A		L		A		I		
		B	A	R	N	A	B	Y		R	U	D	G	E	
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D	E	F	O	R	M	I	T	Y		L	L	A	M	A	
E		F		I		N		B		I		P		N	
M	I	L	A	D	Y		A	U	D	A	C	I	T	Y	
I		E		G		S		T		S		A			
C	O	D	G	E	R		T	H	R	E	A	T	E	N	

No prizes today — big prizes on Monday.

SOLUTION (left) TO PRIZE PUZZLE No. 17,111

S	I	L	I	C	O	N		C	O	P	Y	C	A	T
E		E		O		U		H		R				
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		T	A	B	E	R	N	A	C	L	E	S		
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SOLUTION (left) TO PRIZE PUZZLE No. 17,111

Winner of this week's £20 prize is S. T. Cowan, of Westfield, 57 Chilbolton Avenue, Winchester. Runners-up (£10 book token each) are Mary Riddell, of Brookhill, Longmeadow Drive, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Mrs J. Child, of Linden, Howard Road, Shanklin, Isle of Wight, and Mr E. Tucker, of 12 Homefield Road, Worcester.

THE WEATHER

Cloudy but mild

PRESSURE will remain low near Iceland and high over France. A frontal trough of low pressure will move eastwards across most areas during today:

London, SE England, E Anglia, Channel Islands: Cloudy, rain or drizzle at times. Wind SW, fresh, locally strong. Max temp 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).

Cent S, SW England, Wales: Rather cloudy, rain or drizzle at times, hill and coastal fog patches, bright intervals developing. Wind SW, fresh or strong, decreasing moderate. Max 9 to 11C (48 to 52F).

Isle of Man, N Ireland: Rather cloudy, rain or drizzle at times, hill and coastal fog patches but some bright intervals developing. Wind SW, moderate. Max 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).

Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highland, Argyll: Rather cloudy, some rain or drizzle at times. Hill fog patches. Wind SW, moderate. Max 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).

NE, NW Scotland, Moray Firth, Orkney, Shetland: Bright intervals, rain or drizzle spreading from W. Wind SW, moderate increasing fresh Max 7 to 9C (45 to 48F).

Shetland: Bright or sunny intervals, scattered showers. Wind SW, moderate. Max 5 to 7C (41 to 45F).

Outlook: Mild with some rain at first, but colder, brighter weather with showers will soon reach northern areas, spreading to all areas by Monday. Showers turning wintry in most places with night frost. Becoming windy in the north.

SEA PASSAGES

S North Sea, Strait of Dover: Slight, becoming moderate, locally rough.
English Channel (E): moderate or rough.
St George's Channel, Irish Sea: moderate.

LONDON READINGS

From 6 pm Thursday to 6 am yesterday: Min temp 3C (41F). From 6 am to 6 pm yesterday: Max temp 9C (48F). Total period rainfall, nil; sunshine, 5.7hrs.

MANCHESTER READINGS

From 6 pm Thursday to 6 am yesterday: Min temp 3C (37F). From 6 am to 6 pm yesterday: Max temp 9C (48F). Total period: Rainfall, 0.17in; sunshine, 1.3 hrs.

AROUND THE WORLD

Latest—Late reports

	C	F		C	F
Ajaccio	S	15	59	Los Angeles	S	11	52
Amsterdam	S	8	46	Luxembourg	C	4	39
Athens	C	13	55	Majorca	Dr	12	54
Bahrain	F	19	66	Malaga	F	16	61
Barbados				Malta	F	18	64
Barcelona	F	12	54	Manchester	C	7	45
Belgrade	S	8	48	Melbourne	C	21	70
Beirut	S	20	68	Mexico C.	S	15	59
Berlin	R	7	45	Miami	F	24	75
Bermuda				Montreal	S	-1	30
Biarritz	C	13	55	Moscow	S	-11	12
Birmingham	F	6	43	Munich	R	-1	30
Bombay	S	30	86	Naples	S	16	61
Boston	S	12	54	Newcastle	S	7	45
Boulogne	S	6	43	New Delhi	S	16	61
Bristol	S	8	46	New York	S	9	48
Brussels	C	7	45	Nice	F	13	55
Budapest	Fg	2	36	Oporto	C	12	54
Buenos Aires	F	25	77	Oslo	C	-3	27
Cape Town	S	24	75	Paris	F	9	48
Cardiff	C	6	43	Peking	S	-5	23
Cologne	C	7	45	Perth	S	-28	82
Corfu	F	16	61	Prague	R	-3	27
Dublin	S	5	41	Reykjavik	Sn	-2	28
Dubrovnik	S	16	61	Rhodes	S	17	63
Edinburgh	S	6	43	Rio de Janeiro	S	22	72
Faro	F	18	64	Riyadh	S	10	50
Florence	C	8	46	Rome	F	14	57
Frankfurt	S	8	46	Salzburg	R	-3	27
Funchal	C	18	64	Seoul	F	-2	28
Geneva	C	9	48	Stockholm	C	-2	28
Gibraltar	C	16	61	Strasbourg	S	3	37
Glasgow	S	6	43	Sydney	S	23	73
Helsinki	Sn	1	34	Tel-Aviv	S	23	73
Hong Kong	C	19	66	Tenerife	F	20	68
Innsbruck	S	3	37	Tokyo	C	9	48
Inverness	S	4	39	Tunis	F	15	61
Istanbul	C	9	48	Valencia	F	14	57
Karachi	S	21	70	Vienna	Sn	-1	30
Las Palmas	F	20	68	Venice	C	8	46
Lisbon	F	18	61	Vienna	R	1	34
Locarno	S	9	48	Warsaw	F	1	34
London	S	8	48	Wellington	F	20	68
				Zurich	R	5	41

C, cloudy; Dr, drizzle; F, fair; Fg, fog; R, rain; S, sunny; Sl, sleet; Sn, snow.
Previous day's readings

TODAY
LIGHTING-UP TIMES

Belfast	4	30	pm to	8 16 am
Birmingham	4	25	pm to	7 47 am
Bristol	4	34	pm to	7 49 am
Glasgow	4	15	pm to	8 17 am
London	4	24	pm to	7 55 am
Manchester	4	22	pm to	7 50 am
Newcastle	4	10	pm to	8 00 am
Nottingham	4	22	pm to	7 48 am

HIGH-TIDE TABLE

London Bridge	1	16	am	1 35 pm
Dover	10	31	am	11 04 pm
Liverpool	10	48	am	11 12 pm

SUN RISES 8 04 am
SUN SETS 3 54 pm
MOON RISES 9 25 am
MOON SETS 3 32 pm
MOON: New

AROUND BRITAIN

Reports for the 24 hours ended 6 pm yesterday:

	Sunshine hrs	Rain in	Max temp C	F	Weather (day)
ENGLAND AND WALES					
London	3.7	—	9	48	Sunny
Birmingham	4.9	.01	7	45	Sunny
Bristol	4.7	—	8	46	Sunny
Cardiff	5.3	—	9	48	Sunny
Anglesey	3.0	—	9	48	Bright
Blackpool	1.6	.15	8	46	Bright
Manchester	1.3	.16	8	46	Bright
Nottingham	2.7	.03	6	43	Sunny
Newcastle	3.9	.01	7	45	Bright am
Carlisle	—	.03	7	45	Showers am
EAST COAST					
Scarborough	3.1	.16	6	43	Sunny
Bridlington	3.7	.19	7	45	Cloudy pm
Cromer	5.2	.07	6	43	Sunny
Lowestoft	5.0	.01	6	43	Sunny
Clacton	6.5	—	7	45	Sunny
Margate	—	—	7	45	Sunny
SOUTH COAST					
Folkestone	6.4	.05	7	45	Sunny
Hastings	6.2	.02	7	45	Sunny
Eastbourne	6.0	.02	7	45	Sunny
Brighton	—	.02	6	43	Sunny
Worthing	5.7	.01	7	45	Sunny
Bognor Regis	5.8	.01	7	45	Sunny
Southsea	5.3	—	8	46	Sunny am
Sandown	6.0	—	7	45	Sunny
Shanklin	5.1	—	7	45	Sunny am
Ventnor	5.6	.01	7	45	Sunny
Bournemouth	4.2	—	8	46	Sunny
Poole	5.7	—	8	46	Sunny
Swanage	6.0	—	9	48	Sunny
Exmouth	4.6	.01	9	48	Sunny
Weymouth	5.4	—	9	48	Sunny
Falmouth	5.5	—	10	50	Sunny
Torquay	5.5	—	10	50	Sunny
Falmouth	—	—	12	54	Cloudy
Penzance	1.0	.01	10	50	Cloudy
Jersey	5.6	.03	10	50	Sunny
Guernsey	5.8	.01	10	50	Sunny
WEST COAST					
Isles of Scilly	0.5	—	16	50	Dull
Newquay	1.3	—	10	50	Bright
Ilfracombe	3.0	—	9	48	Sunny
Tenby	4.2	.01	11	52	Sunny
Colwyn Bay	2.4	—	9	48	Cloudy
Southport	1.5	.19	8	46	Cloudy
Morecambe	0.2	.10	8	46	Cloudy
Douglas	1.9	.04	7	45	Cloudy pm
SCOTLAND					
Eskdalemuir	0.2	.14	5	41	Showers
Prestwick	—	.17	8	46	Showers
Glasgow	—	.25	8	46	Showers
Tiree	—	.08	9	48	Showers
Stornoway	0.8	.17	6	43	Hail
Lerwick	0.3	.14	5	41	Hail
Wick	0.7	.10	4	39	Showers
Kinloss	0.7	.18	5	41	Sleet
Aberdeen	3.5	—	6	43	Sunny
St Andrews	3.6	—	6	43	Showers pm
Edinburgh	2.3	.07	6	43	Showers pm
NORTHERN IRELAND					
Belfast	0.2	.01	6	43	Dull

TOMORROW
LIGHTING-UP TIMES

Belfast	4	30	pm to	8 16 am
Birmingham	4	25	pm to	7 47 am
Bristol	4	34	pm to	7 49 am
Glasgow	4	16	pm to	8 17 am
London	4	24	pm to	7 55 am
Manchester	4	22	pm to	7 50 am
Newcastle	4	10	pm to	8 00 am
Nottingham	4	22	pm to	7 48 am

HIGH-TIDE TABLE

London Bridge	2	01	am	2 20 pm
Dover	11	19	am	11 47 pm
Liverpool	11	33	am	11 58 pm

SUN RISES 8 02 am
SUN SETS 3 54 pm
MOON RISES 9 28 am
MOON SETS 4 33 pm
MOON: First quarter Dec 30

SATELLITE PREDICTIONS

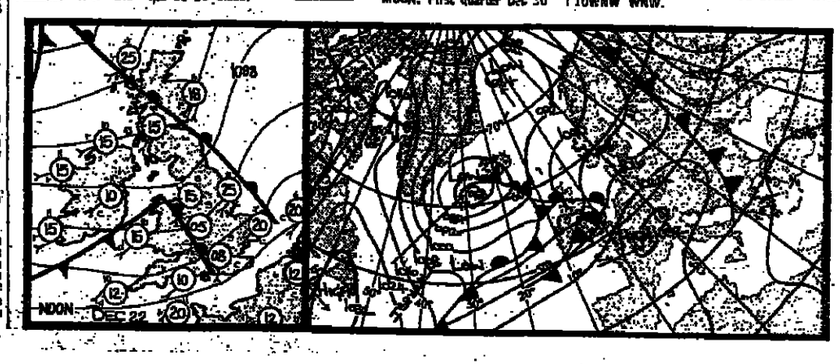
The figures give in order, time and visibility, when rising, maximum elevation and direction of setting. An asterisk denotes entering or leaving eclipse.

TODAY
London

Agena-DR: 19.25–19.29 SSW 55SW SW; Aztec: 16.53–17.00 ESE 25ENE NNE; 18.31–18.40 S 55WNW NNW; (Dec. 24) 6.33–6.43 N 85S S.
Cosmos 185R: 18.23–18.25 NW 30NNW NNW*.
Cosmos 1385: (Dec. 24) 5.09–5.14 N* 30N NE; 6.53–7.02 NW* 30N ENE.
Dynamic Explorer: 17.49–17.53 NW 15WNW W.
Intercosmos 19R: 16.45–16.54 SSE 35E NE; 18.25–18.34 SW 50NW NNE*.
Seasats: 16.54–17.00 ENE 20E SE; 18.35–18 41 NE 80ENE SSW; 20.15–20.18 WNW* 25WNW W.

SCOTTISH SKI REPORTS

Cairngorm: Upper runs complete but narrow, hard-packed snow. Middle runs, patchy cover, hard-packed snow. Lower slopes: No snow. Vert runs 500ft. Hill and main roads clear. Snow level 2,000ft.
Glen Shee, Glenshee: Insufficient snow.
Lecht: Upper and middle runs, some complete, hard-packed snow with icy patches. Lower slopes: patchy cover, hard-packed snow with icy patches. Vert runs 600ft. Hill and main roads clear. Snow level 2,000ft.
Forecast: Cloudy, rain at times.



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